METRO / A23

2 sons of Noli de Castro's wife sue ma for bigamy, perjury

SPORTS / A27

Reynante wins bike Tour stage; Espiritu back on top

WORLD / A26

Israel seizes Palestinian minister, 32 other leaders, bombs Gaza

LIVING STARS/ G1

Welcome to Isabella Gonzales' home, studio, mini-theater

NEWS / A2

New 'American Idol' is only 17

NSC chief slams Bataan cops for daughter's loss

MASKI SINO TI-NATALO DAHIL SA PERA!

By Allison W. Lopez

THE NATIONAL SECURIty Adviser is appalled that not even he or his daughter, a congressional candidate in the second district of Bataan, can count on its police force.

NSC CHIEF/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, May 25, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 166 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Abalos brod's 'tricycle drivers' top Basilan vote

By Christian V. Esguerra

HOW CAN A MANDALUYONG-BASED PARTY-list group of tricycle drivers score big in Basilan?

Election watchdog Bantay RA 7941 and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales asked the question yesterday upon learning that Biyaheng Pinoy, headed by the brother of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., garnered

ABALOS / A10

Makati's No. 2 cop shot dead, youngest of 5 brother policemen

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WITH FOUR POLICE OFFICERS IN THE Bocalbos family, nobody thought that Supt. Jovem Bocalbos, the Makati City deputy chief of police, would meet his end in a single act of senseless violence.

Even as Supt. Joaquin Bocalbos and twins SPO2 Joseph Pablo Bocalbos and SPO4 Joseph Pedro Bocalbos looked at the body of their brother, who was inside a white flag-draped coffin, they could hardly believe that he had ended up a victim of murder.

The 38-year-old Bocalbos, a member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for 16 years, died from a single bullet

MAKATI'S/ A8

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

REQUIEM FOR MODEL COP: The remains of Supt. Joven Bocalbos now lie at Pamplona I, Las Piñas. (At left) Brother cops: At his wake are SPO4 Joseph Pedro Bocalbos of the Western Police District, Supt. Joachim Bocalbos, Pandacan station commander, SPO2 Pablo of the Pasay City police. A brother died in training at the PNP academy.

Soldiers guard Lanao polls

GMA: Stalled Doha talks drive East Asia integration

By Leah P. Makabenta

TOKYO—THE STALLED DOHA ROUND of trade talks is what is driving the process of integration in East Asia, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

The Doha Round was called the development round because it was supposed to bring the benefits of the global trading system to developing countries, she said at the opening of the 13th Future of Asia conference here yesterday.

Ms Arroyo said the developed countries let the developing countries down when, realizing they would have to give up their subsidies or markets, they put up the "yellow light of caution" in the Doha Round.

"We will not just wait around. We aim

GMA/ A17

President Arroyo and Lee Kuan Yew, founding father of Singapore and its former prime minister and now senior minister make a congenial pair during a reception for a symposium during The Future of Asia Conference at a Tokyo hotel. AFP

Palparan, Lomibao monitor security

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MARAWI CITY—THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS will take the "lead role" in providing security for the special elections to be held in at least 13 towns tomorrow in Lanao del Sur, according to Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento.

Speaking at a command conference yesterday afternoon, Sarmiento said "the Armed Forces of the Philippines will play the lead role, supported by the Philippine National Police, to ensure the smooth operations of the elections."

Asked why, he said the move was intended "to avoid partisanship and bias." He cited "reports from the field that some police officers are related to some candidates by affinity and consanguinity."

Two retired generals—Arturo Lomibao, a former PNP chief, and the controversial Jovito Palparan—are personally monitoring the security preparations for the special elections.

In an agreement signed last October by then Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., the Department of National Defense and the poll body reached a consensus on the military's role and functions in the midterm elections and in all other polls including special elections, plebiscites, etc.

The Comelec and DND agreed that the poll body should only deputize actual military units or commands in areas affected by "serious armed threats" to the

SOLDIERS/ A12

'Hospital holiday' off; Pia explains

By Leila B. Salaverria

SEN. PIA CAYETANO YESTERDAY frowned on the threatened holiday of private hospitals over a law preventing them from detaining patients for unpaid bills, even as she allayed their fears of bankruptcy.

Cayetano, one of the sponsors of Republic Act No. 9439, said the law was not intended to excuse patients from paying their bills but was meant to safeguard the people's health and well-being.

Under RA 9439, officers of medical institutions are banned from preventing patients from leaving the hospital or refusing them medical certificates over unpaid bills as long as the patients issue a promissory note to pay.

Employees of medical institutions who violate the law could be imprisoned for up to six months or fined as much as P50,000.

But Cayetano need not worry about patients being turned away as the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP) postponed its protest action scheduled for today. Under the hospital holiday, PHAP members nation-

HOSPITAL/ A10

STILL 8-2-2 FOR GO

Abalos takes back proclamation plan

By Nikko Dizon, Jocelyn R. Uy and Cathy Yamsuan

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CHAIR Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday backtracked on his announcement that the poll body would proclaim the top nine winners in the senatorial race tomorrow.

It was still 8-2-2 in favor of the Genuine Opposition in the separate tabulations by the Comelec and the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) as of about 6 p.m. yesterday.

Abalos said there were still quite a number of certificates of canvass (CoCs), particularly from big provinces and cities, that have yet to be tabulated by the Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC).

"We'll see because there are still many CoCs that haven't arrived yet. They haven't been canvassed yet," Abalos said when asked if the partial proclamation would push through tomorrow.

He noted that the CoCs from vote-rich areas such as Manila, Davao City, Davao province and Cebu have yet to be received by the NBC.

These vote-rich areas yield some four million to five million votes, Abalos said, and could still affect the results of the senatorial elections.

The tabulation of vote for senators slowed down with only four CoCs read out yesterday.

When the NBC adjourned the canvassing at 6:15 last night, it was still 8-2-2 in favor of GO.

It was also 8-2-2 for GO in the tally by Namfrel as of 6:03 last night.

The tallies read out by the Comelec were from Navotas-Malabon, Tawi-

ABALOS/ A18

WHY THE CHEATING IN SOUTH

Moro 'culture' exploited by 'Christian North'

By Volt Contreras and Nikko Dizon

IN SOME AREAS IN MUSLIM MINdanao, it's not unusual for local chiefs to order ballots to be filled out in behalf of entire villages for political kingpins with the highest offer.

The voters will be too scared to protest, too clannish to question their elders, or just too detached from the government to feel violated as citizens.

Exploit this Moro "culture" using poll-rigging machinations devised by the "Christian North," and that may help explain why the South has historically been known as the main theater of fraud in Philippine elections.

A veteran election official, a poll watchdog, and a Muslim reform advocate shared these views as reports of massive vote-buying, cheating and violence in the May 14 elections again centered on at least two Southern provinces—Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

Bantay Eleksyon 2007 chair Ramon Casiple has become so wary of Lanao's notoriety that he warned the Commission on Elections that holding special elections there tomorrow would give cheaters exactly the chance they want. (The special elections were called after the presence of armed groups disrupted the balloting in 13 towns in the province.)

He said the 100,000-plus votes from the province, likely the last that will be

MORO/ A12

ELEKSYON 2007

COMELEC 100% of 154 overseas absentee voters CoCs, 79 local CoCs out of 104 As of 6:15 p.m. May 24, 2007			NAMFREL 156,432 out of 224,748 precincts As of 6:03 p.m. May 24, 2007		
1	LEGARDA	13,429,984	1	LEGARDA	12,053,363
2	ESCUDERO	13,267,409	2	ESCUDERO	11,794,935
3	LACSON	11,183,342	3	LACSON	10,385,738
4	VILLAR	11,129,535	4	VILLAR	9,945,033
5	PANGILINAN	10,561,517	5	PANGILINAN	9,475,559
6	AQUINO	10,344,429	6	AQUINO	9,427,298
7	ANGARA	8,901,998	7	ANGARA	8,254,853
8	CAYETANO, A.	8,486,757	8	HONASAN	7,738,409
9	ARROYO	8,403,409	9	CAYETANO, A.	7,680,854
10	HONASAN	8,314,296	10	ARROYO	7,514,539
11	TRILLANES	8,036,988	11	TRILLANES	7,367,629
12	PIMENTEL	7,683,384	12	PIMENTEL	7,227,116
13	ZUBIRI	7,647,610	13	ZUBIRI	6,977,044
14	RECTO	7,607,490	14	RECTO	6,790,342
15	DEFENSOR	7,016,505	15	DEFENSOR	6,407,057
16	PICHAY	6,778,975	16	PICHAY	6,391,003
17	ROCO	6,143,728	17	ROCO	5,574,203
18	MONTANO	5,514,039	18	MONTANO	5,183,140
19	SOTTO	5,339,268	19	OSMENA	4,909,248
20	OSMENA	5,013,077	20	SOTTO	4,738,607

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(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western sections of Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: EDDON SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/05/24/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

2 soldiers quizzed on Burgos

By Christine O. Avendaño

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., yesterday handed over two of three soldiers summoned for questioning by police investigators in connection with the disappearance of agriculturist Jonas Burgos.

"There was no intention to evade," Esperon told reporters, after police investigators scored the non-appearance of the Army men at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and threatened to cite them for contempt.

The two soldiers brought to police headquarters were Cpl. Castro Bugalon and Private first class Jose Villena, both of the 56th Infantry Battalion command in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

The third one, Battalion Commander Melquiades Feliciano, who has been suspended , did not appear yesterday afternoon with the others, Police director Geary Barias of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM) told the INQUIRER.

Esperon also disclosed the results of a Provost Marshall report on the missing car plate that was seen on the vehicle used to abduct agriculturist Jonas Burgos.

The much-awaited report found "negligence on the part of battalion commanders," said Esperon, but could not pinpoint when, how or who stole the car plate which was traced to a vehicle impounded in the compound of the 56th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army based in Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Based on this report, Esperon announced that he has ordered the "administrative admonition" of three battalion commanders for negligence.

This only means that the findings would be reflected in the records of the three Army battalion commanders.

Aside from Feliciano, the others admonished were Lt. Col. Noel Clemen, 56th IB commander until January this year; and Lt. Col. Edison Caga, commander of the 69th IB but who was tasked to guard the 56th IB camp when the Army unit was sent for training from November last year to March.

"We have found primarily negligence but we could not pinpoint yet at whose time the plate number was lost," he told reporters At Camp Aguinaldo.

He also said that the investigation had not yet established how the plates got lost.

Explaining the action he took against the three battalion commanders, Esperon said that the military merely addressed the "administrative" aspect of the Burgos case and because they did not want to preempt the investigation being conducted by the police.

Meanwhile, Esperon said that the AFP is continuing its effort to locate Burgos. "It's still a go..," he said.

The abduction of Jonas Burgos, the son of the late press freedom icon and newspaper publisher Jose "Joe" Burgos, inside a Quezon City mall last April 28 has sparked outrage here and abroad.

The Burgos family and a militant farmers group said they would demonstrate today in front of AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, to protest the slow response of the military in finding Jonas.

The family also dared the Armed Forces to open all its camps and safehouses to them and an independent team investigators.

"We want to find out if Jonas is with them," Jonas' younger brother Jose Luis said in a phone interview.

Over 800 political activists have been summarily executed since 2001, according to the human rights group Karapatan. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa and Angela Rebueno*

Jordin is youngest ever 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES—SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jordin Sparks won the 2007 "American Idol" television singing contest on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), beating an older, more offbeat male rival to become the youngest ever winner of the coveted title.

Sparks, who captured the hearts of viewers of the most popular US TV show with her bubbly personality and big voice, beat 25-year-old Blake Lewis in a contest that was decided by a telephone vote in which a record 74 million votes were cast.

The two finalists embraced after host Ryan Seacrest announced the result with Sparks, dressed in a long, flowing gold gown, having difficulty catching her breath.

"Thank you so much for everything—Mom and Dad, I love you!" said the emotional teenager, who along with the "American Idol" title will receive a recording contract.

In its sixth season, "American Idol" has grown from a cheesy summer talent competition into a cultural phenomenon that draws about 30 million viewers twice a week to News Corp.'s Fox network.

About 100,000 people auditioned for this year's show, which puts contestants through auditions and performances that showcase musical genres ranging from country to hard rock. In its first five seasons, "Idol" has produced a list of successful stars from both its winners and losers.

On Wednesday night's show at Hollywood's Kodak Theater, four of the show's five previous winners—Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Ruben Studdard and Taylor Hicks—performed a medley of Beatles tunes with the show's top 12 finalists.

Backstage, Sparks could barely contain her excitement at joining the ranks of previous "Idol" winners.

"It just turned out pretty cool, I guess," she said, giggling and brushing back her long dark hair.

In addition to transforming nobodies into stars, "Idol" has become a coveted forum for established artists to be seen.

Wednesday's star-studded event included performances by Gwen Stefani, Smokey Robinson, Gladys Knight and Green Day. *Reuters*

Body in Afghan well that of missing Pinay

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs yesterday confirmed that the woman believed murdered and whose body was found in a well in Gardez, Afghanistan, was a Filipino.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Affairs Esteban Conejos said the identity of the woman was confirmed by the Philippine embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Philippines has no embassy in Afghanistan.

Conejos said the DFA would send a consular team to the capital Kabul to get the body for shipment to the Philippines.

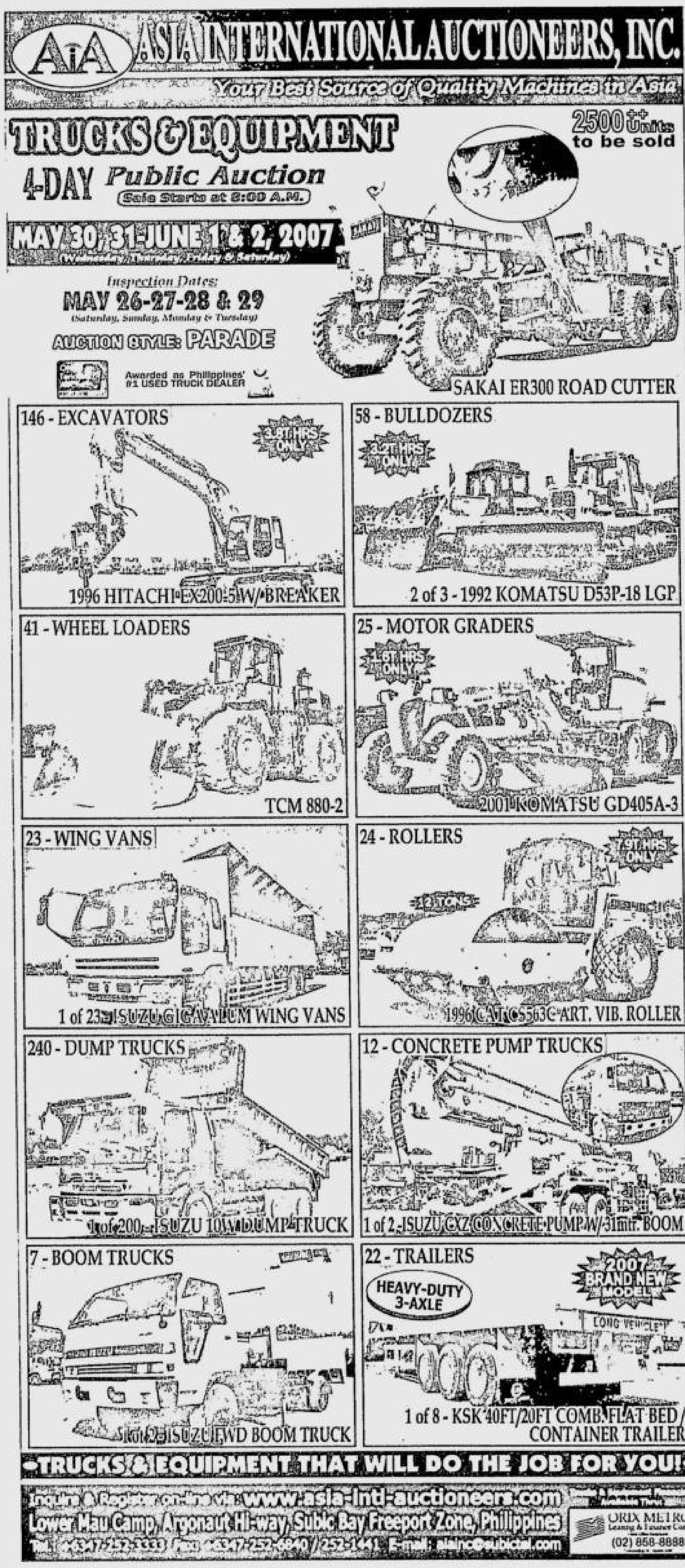
In his report, Consul General Cervantes of the embassy in Islamabad said the body was found by the police in Gardez, 100 km southeast of Kabul, a day after her Filipino husband reported her missing.

Conejos said the DFA was withholding the identity of the woman upon the request of the husband.

Earlier reports said the woman was working for an Indian company.

According to the husband, his wife failed to arrive in Kabul to meet him in the afternoon of May 21. He last saw her in the morning of the same day just before she was supposed to board the car that would take her from Gardez to the Afghan capital, which is about one-and-a-half hours' drive.

The driver of the car was placed under police custody the following day. *With a report from AFP*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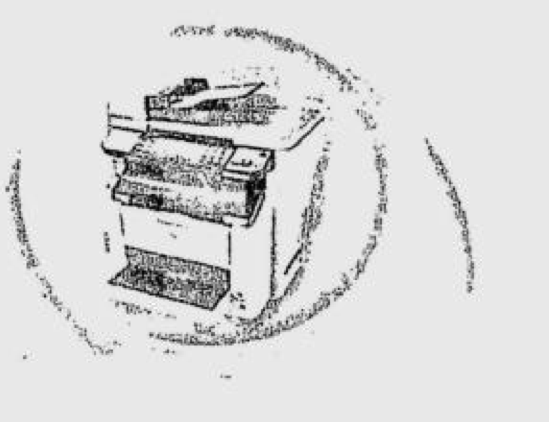
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Killings to hound GMA in NZ, Aussie visits

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ISSUE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS in the country is expected to be a central part of discussions during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visits to New Zealand and Australia next week.

Australian Ambassador Tony Hely said both Australia and New Zealand were concerned about the killings.

Hely briefed reporters on Wednesday on Philippine-Australian relations afterwhich he answered questions on international concern over the killings of political activists and journalists—estimated at over 800 since 2001.

"From an Australian point of view, we, I think, like most governments, are concerned about those killings, and we take opportunities to express those concerns to the Philippine government and ask what they can do to stop the killings and to bring the perpetrators to justice," said Hely.

He said his country was looking at ways where it could help "strengthen positive human rights training and education" for the Philippine military under the two nations' defense cooperation program.

He said New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark is also expected to raise the issue of the killings during President Arroyo's visit there from May 27 to 30.

"It will certainly be raised in New Zealand," said Hely, recalling that when the New Zealand Prime Minister was last in the Philippines, President Arroyo asked her for technical assistance and cooperation between their respective human rights commissions.

Hely said "a technical assistance package would likely come out of the New Zealand leg" of the President's trip, which will also take her to Australia.

In the course of her state visit to New Zealand, President Arroyo is expected to attend an interfaith dialogue in Waitangi, hosted by Clark.

Hely added that discussions on what Malacañang now dubs as "unexplained killings" is not expected to be antagonistic since it was President Arroyo herself who had sought the help of of foreign governments in helping investigate the killings through technical assistance.

Hely said his country was already involved in programs here to build the capacity of the commission on human rights.

"We do make our concerns known. But we try to take a positive view and do what we can to offer some technical capacity building support."

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International, in its recently released annual report, criticized the Philippines for what it called the "politics of fear." In an interview over BBC, the group's secretary general Irene Khan noted a "dangerous, authoritarian" trend in the country.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, defended the President, saying she had created Task Force Usig, the Melo Commission and even invited United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston to conduct a fact-finding mission.

In a scathing report, United Nations' rapporteur Philip Alston had said the Philippine military was "in denial" over the involvement of some of its elements in the killings.

Ermita said President Arroyo welcomed "all the assistance we can get from our allies and partners" such as expertise in forensics.

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Impeachment still alive for opposition

By Dona Pazzibugan

SOME OPPOSITION CONGRESSmen have not given up the idea of another impeachment attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If we have the numbers, of course. It's a no-brainer," said South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio, who won reelection over boxing champion Manny Pacquiao.

Custodio took part in the back-to-back impeachment attempts mounted by opposition members of the House of Representatives against Ms Arroyo in 2005 and 2006 over the "Hello Garci" election cheating scandal.

But the House minority failed to get enough support.

Administration allies continue to dominate the House of Representatives based on results of the May 14 mid-term elections.

"We're still taking stock how many (opposition members) we actually lost. But it seems there are some additions to the minority," Custodio said.

Sorsogon Representative and senatorial candidate Francis Escudero, who was the House minority leader during the impeachment attempts, said it was unfortunate that the opposition did not get enough House seats.

He said congressional elections are dictated by local politics. "The effect of national issues are not that felt (at the local elections)," he said.

Escudero and two other representatives who led the impeachment ran for the Senate, Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Taguig Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano.

The three are ranking high in the partial unofficial and official counts.

"It was a lost cause because there's no numbers. But if we have the numbers, why not?," Custodio said.

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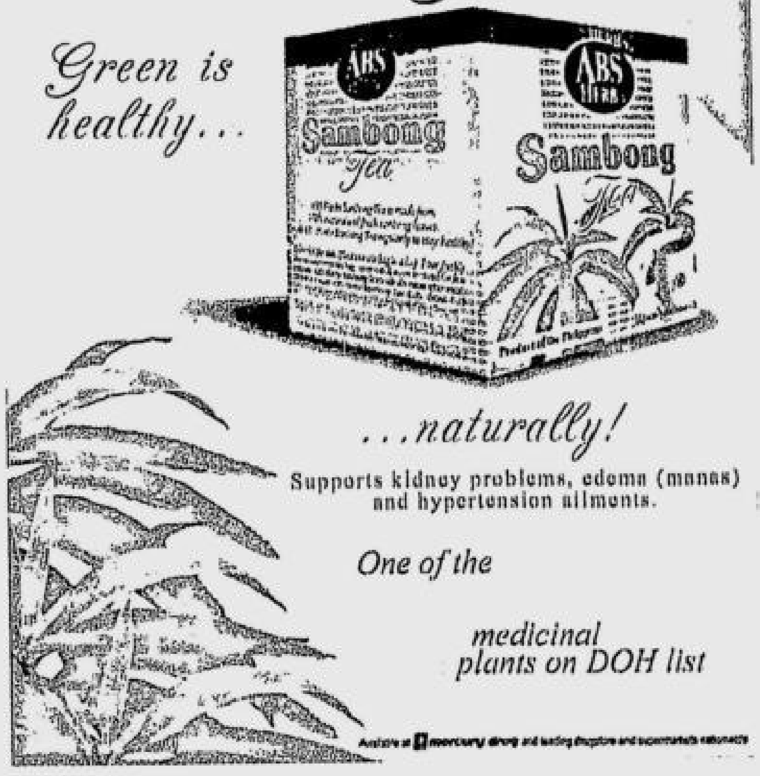

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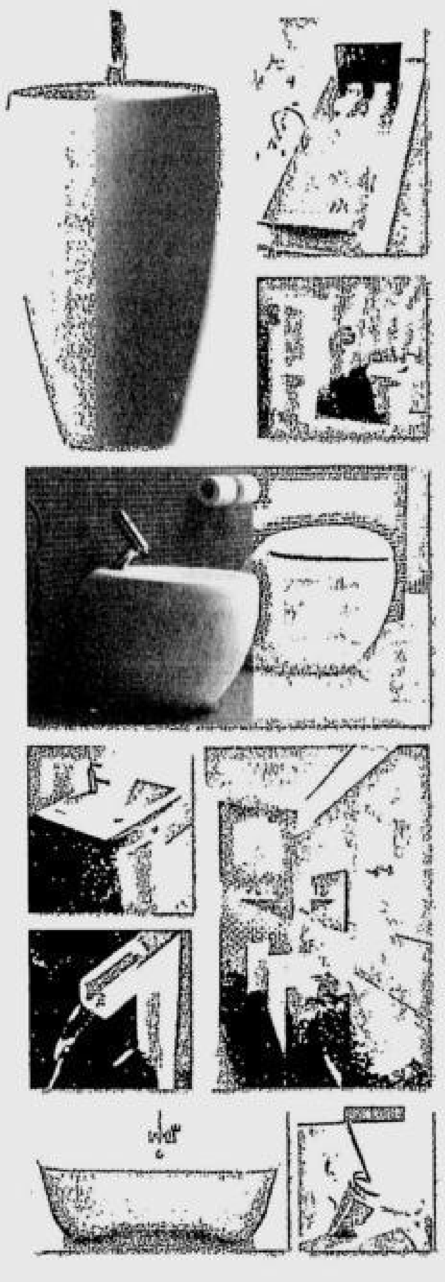

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ADB: RP needs 7% growth to help poor

THE PHILIPPINE government needs to boost economic output growth to at least seven percent if it is to make an impact on the country's sprawling poverty, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday.

The lender's country director Tom Crouch said the Philippines had an "atmosphere of greater promise than we have seen for while" with the peso at seven-year highs against the dollar, stock prices at record high levels, and US firm Texas Instruments having just announced a billion-dollar investment.

He credited President Macapagal-Arroyo's "prudent management of the economy," particularly the passage of key tax reforms that led to a "fiscal consolidation success story" for the renewed investor interest in Manila.

Crouch's comments, released by the Manila-based ADB Thursday, were delivered during a closed-door meeting with senior Philippine economic managers on Wednesday. *AFP*

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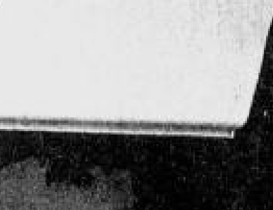

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FUSO

GMA won't like Senate's new face

WITH ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATES FARING badly in the election count, the opposition is now poised to take full control of the Senate including its main investigative arm, the blue ribbon committee.

"Regardless of the outcome of the last three positions, the configuration of the party alignments in the Senate will be enhanced in favor of the opposition, there is no question about that," said Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Both the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections and Commission on Elections running tallies have eight Genuine Opposition candidates in the top 12 with two independents and two TEAM Unity candidates.

"The Senate will be a different battleground and the majority in the Senate need not necessarily be allied with the President."

Pimentel hinted at sweeping changes in the alignments in the Senate.

"There will have to be a revamp of the present leadership structure of the Senate which will naturally involve the Senate presidency, the majority position, the minority position because there are new senators coming in," said Pimentel.

Among the key position being eyed by the opposition is the blue ribbon committee currently chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo who ran for reelection as Kampi under TEAM Unity. With an opposition at the helm of the Senate's investigative arm, the Senate is expected to conduct more investigative probes against the administration.

Malacañang has at least four core supporters in the Senate—Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Lito Lapid, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., and Juan Ponce Enrile—but Pimentel warned that its backers could still decrease.

"I don't know if he (Lapid) will still be a stalwart considering what happened in Makati (he lost to reelectionist Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay) and Pampanga (his son, Mark, lost in his reelection bid for governor)," said Pimentel.

On Santiago, Pimentel said: "You know Miriam is not an all out supporter of the administration."

Pimentel said that while Enrile was for the administration, "in fairness to Johnny, I think the results in his area showed that the GO ticket did well relatively speaking."

It pays to snitch, jobseekers told

By Jerome Aning

WANT TO BE PRIORITIZED BY THE GOVernment for an overseas job placement? All you have to do is to spill the beans on an illegal recruitment racket.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration yesterday said it would launch a witness assistance and protection program to further strengthen its drive against illegal recruitment.

POEA chief Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the program's mechanics will be tackled in the next meeting of the agency's governing board.

The program is open to victims of illegal recruiters. Baldoz said that over the years, POEA's Anti-Illegal Recruitment Branch has noted a rise in the dismissal of illegal recruitment complaints due to complainants' inability to pay docket fees in courts.

Also, the complainants' financial or employment constraints have resulted in their lack of interest in pursuing cases against illegal recruitment, she added.

Worse, Baldoz recounted, many complainants simply opt to withdraw their cases when the suspected illegal recruiter returns their placement fee deposits. This resulted in the non-prosecution of the suspect, who is again left free to victimize other foreign work applicants.

Aside from the shouldering of docket fee payments, POEA's package of incentives and benefits for witnesses or complainants in illegal recruitment cases include subsistence and transportation costs and welfare assistance, which included prioritization of the witness in POEA's special hiring program.

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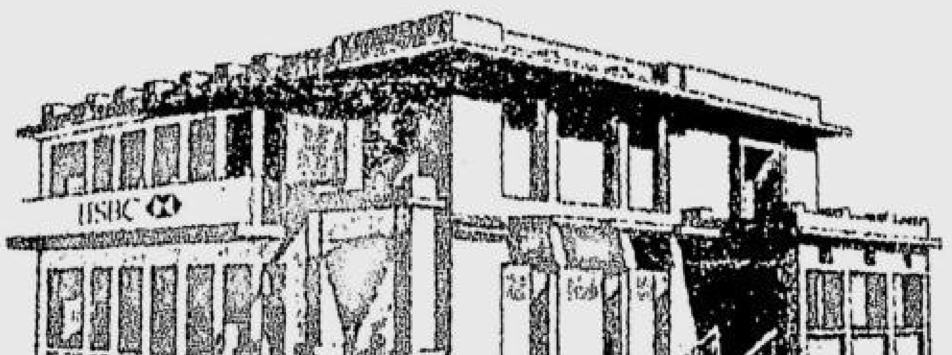

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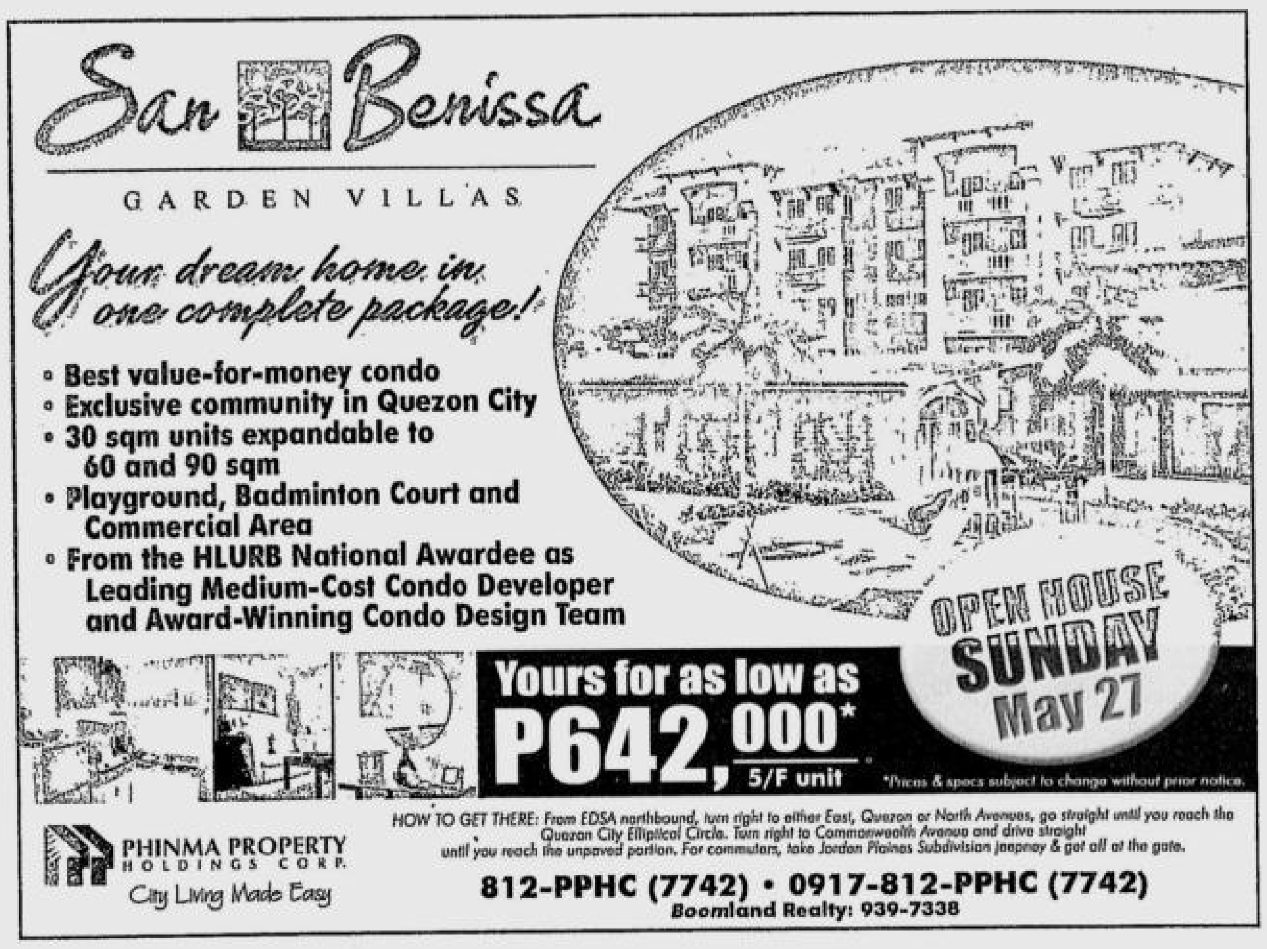

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PPCRV HEAD SPEAKS

'Nat'l leaders must set example for clean polls'

By Fe Zamora

NATIONAL LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT AND private sectors "must set the example" in fighting electoral fraud and restoring credibility to the right of suffrage, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) chair Ambassador Henrietta de Villa said Wednesday.

De Villa, who heads a nationwide army of 500,000 of volunteer poll workers, said a "great part" of public distrust on the electoral process stemmed from the "unresolved allegations of fraud" in the May 2004 elections.

"There was no closure," she said, referring to the issues surrounding the "Hello Garci" tapes that had President Arroyo allegedly asking Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to ensure she leads by one million votes over her rival, Fernando Poe Jr.

But De Villa, a former ambassador to the Vatican, fell short of naming these "national leaders" and "decision makers" she believed must set an example on electoral honesty.

"I'm not quick to condemn, I believe in the possibility of grace," she also said.

The PPCRV, along with the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (Namfre), is a citizens' arms accredited by the Comelec to help guard the conduct of the midterm elections held on May 14. The PPCRV mobilized some 500,000 parishioners who worked as poll watchers in their parishes on election day itself, and as canvass watchers in the succeeding days.

The canvas watchers were also backed by volunteer lawyers' group Legal Network for Truthful Elections (Lente), which was organized by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).

A million volunteers

All in all, an estimated one million volunteers—poll watchers, canvass watchers, lawyers—were mobilized by PPCRV under yet another umbrella group, the Volunteers for Clean Elections (V4CE). With its secretariat at the Ateneo, the V4CE is being supervised by Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan.

De Villa said PPCRV "is not for the opposition or administration candidates, but for everyone." She said the PPCRV is there to "safeguard the right to suffrage."

She admitted, however, that the PPCRV poll watchers were "helpless" against cheating that takes place even before the elections are held.

This became evident in Maguindanao where an unnamed teacher said certain Comelec officials ordered them to fill up ballots with the names of administration candidates for senator on the eve of May 14.

The unnamed teacher surfaced to belie the election results of Maguindanao that showed 12-0 sweep of the administration's Team Unity (TU). The results of Maguindanao has been held under protest before the national board of canvass.

"Cheating has become endemic in some areas, it has even become part of the culture," said De Villa, who is set to fly to Lanao del Sur for its special elections on Saturday.

She also cited reports from the ground about "huge amount of money" spent for election purposes. "Voting has become a commercial transaction," she said.

'Incident reports'

Even the electoral laws were ignored either deliberately or by sheer ignorance, she said.

For instance, barangay leaders cleaned up the polling areas and removed the second copy of the Election Returns from the posting areas soon after the counting was finished.

She said the PPCRV had to remind the barangay leaders to post the Election Returns back to its designated areas as provided by the Electoral Reform Law.

She said a strict implementation of the electoral laws, which would include the filing of charges, prosecution and punishment for violators could help ensure a more honest electoral process.

"But nobody has been charged or convicted," De Villa said.

She admitted having received "incident reports" about irregularities in the May 14 elections, and of even interviewing witnesses to the alleged fraud.

"But nobody will testify for fear of their lives. We cannot substantiate a case without a witness," she said.

Corrections

IN THE MAY 22 ISSUE, THE NAMFREL party-list tally on page A8 misstated the number of precincts counted as of 4:28 p.m. on May 21. Namfrel counted 103,421 —not 7,103,421 —out of 224,748 precincts.

In the May 24 issue, the photo caption accompanying a front-page story—"6 Pinoy students win in int'l science fair"— omitted inadvertently the name of one of the Filipino winners at the recent Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Rightmost in the photo is Luiji John Karlo Suarez.

In the first edition of the May 24 issue, the headline "Army welcomes probe of Burgos abduction" on page A2 was accompanied by the wrong story.

In the May 24 issue, a story on page A17 of the Metro section—"Gag order for lawyers of Mark Jimenez, wife"—misstated the relationship between former representative Mark Jimenez and Virgilio Crespo. Crespo is Jimenez' biological son—not his stepson.

In the same issue, Nestor Torre's column on page D4 of the Entertainment section—"Star power loses its political clout"—misstated that Vicente "Tito" Sotto III ran as an independent in this year's senatorial election. Sotto ran under the administration's Team Unity.

* * *

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FASHION 101:
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World's top 'cybersleuth' is a Pinoy

By Alcuin Papa

A FILIPINO INVESTIGATOR WAS NAMED the world's best "cybersleuth" for 2007 by an international organization of computer experts battling cybercrime.

Alexander Ramos, a forensic analyst of the Philippine National Police (PNP), was awarded the 2007 Timothy Fidel Memorial Award by organizers of the Computer Enterprise Investigations Conference, besting six other nominees shortlisted for the award from hundreds of entries worldwide.

Ramos was awarded for his work in bringing down a criminal syndicate preying on telecommunications networks worldwide last March.

He is the first Asian to receive the award, which was given in recognition rites in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 7.

In the event, White House Cyber Security Adviser Howard Schmidt also cited efforts of the PNP to fight "online crimes."

Catching hackers

In March, efforts of Ramos and other investigators led to the arrest of eight people, including a Jordanian, involved in hacking into telephone systems worldwide and illegally selling rights to these lines to buyers worldwide.

Their operations resulted in losses of over $250 million for telecommunication corporations, Ramos said, and "adversely affected the image of the country abroad."

Ramos won a $10,000-prize, but according to the rules of the award, has to be donated to a charity of his choice.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, the stocky 43-year-old Ramos said that local cyber investigators, though frequently finding themselves lacking in equipment, are adept.

"We have the investigative and technical competency. Our lack of equipment is offset by our skills," Ramos said.

He said that the award was a testament to the "big improvement in the PNP's capability to fight cybercrimes."

"If foreign industries rely on us, then this means we are competent globally," he pointed out.

Ramos said up-to-date laws that seek to punish cyber criminals still had to be enacted.

New law

While there were local laws like the E-Commerce Act, he said, most of the cases filed under the law were still unresolved. "It's a new law. Once there is a conviction, others will definitely follow."

Ramos has been involved in fighting cybercrimes for the past 10 years, starting as a cybercrime investigator for the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) in 1998. The next year, Ramos underwent training in the US under agencies like the US Secret Service and the US Department of Justice.

A brief produced by the PNP on Ramos describes him as a "key figure" in the campaign against child pornography in the Asia Pacific Region and a pioneer in cybercrime investigations in the country.

Director Geary Barias, chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management (DIDM), said Ramos' award showed the effectiveness of the PNP in fighting "modern day crimes."

"His recognition by experts of the world reflects the respect of the global community of our efforts to effectively fight borderless crimes," Barias said.

The Timothy Fidel Memorial Award is named after a special agent of the US Secret Service and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Fidel was a major participant in the design of the Secret Service's Electronic Crimes Special Agents Program (ECSAP).

Among the members of the awards committee who chose Ramos were representatives of ECSAP, the US Internal Revenue Service, the EPA, and other agencies involved in computer forensics.

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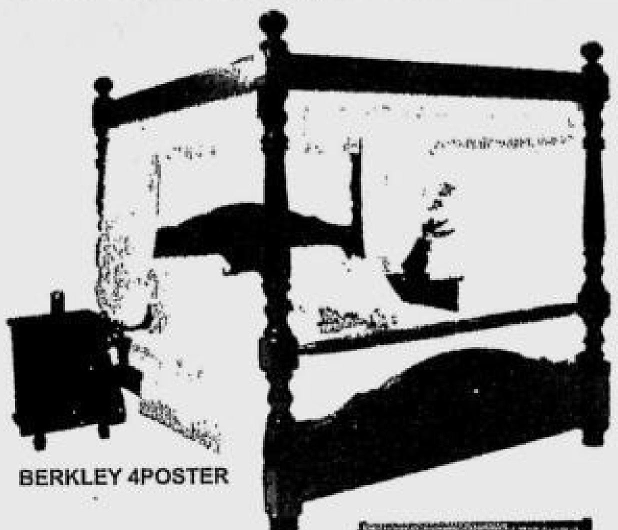
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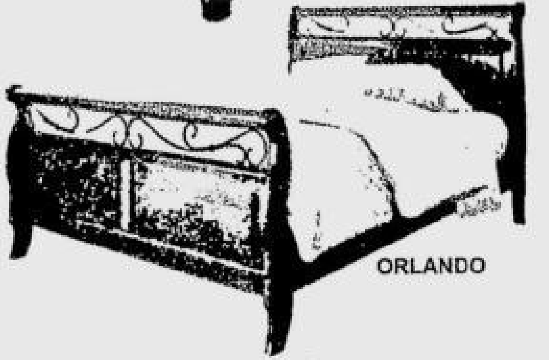
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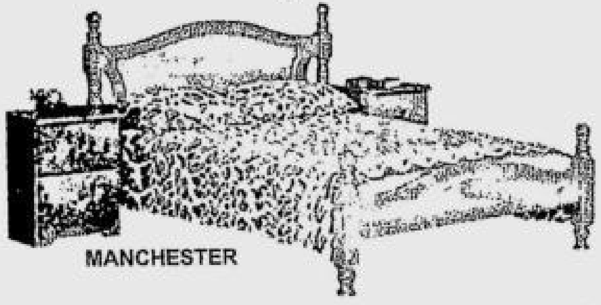
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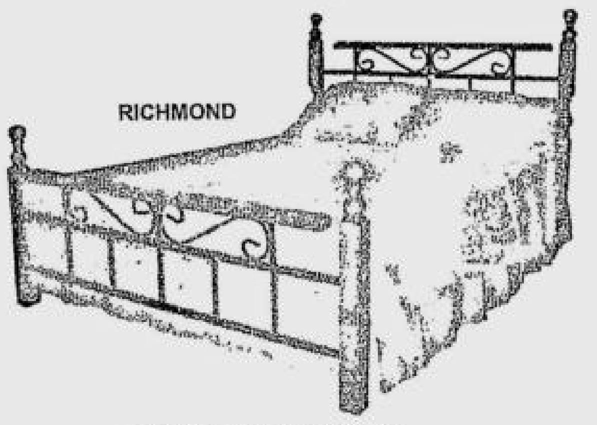
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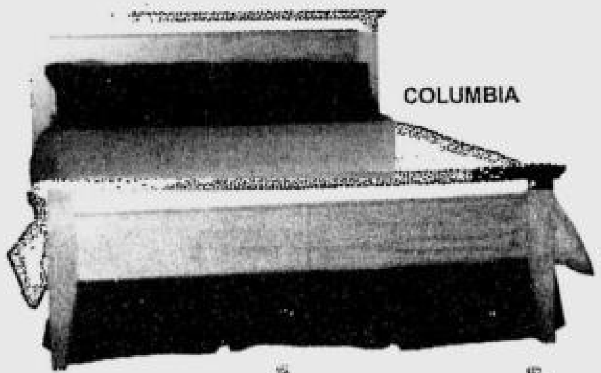
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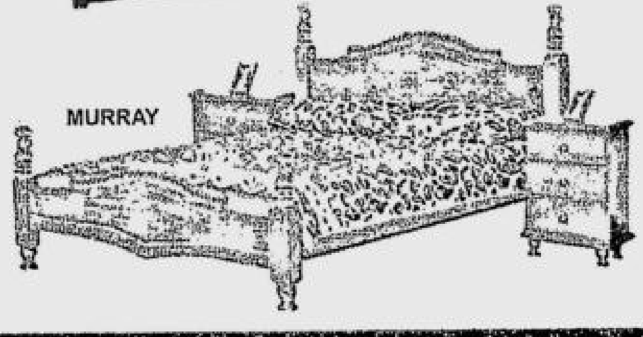
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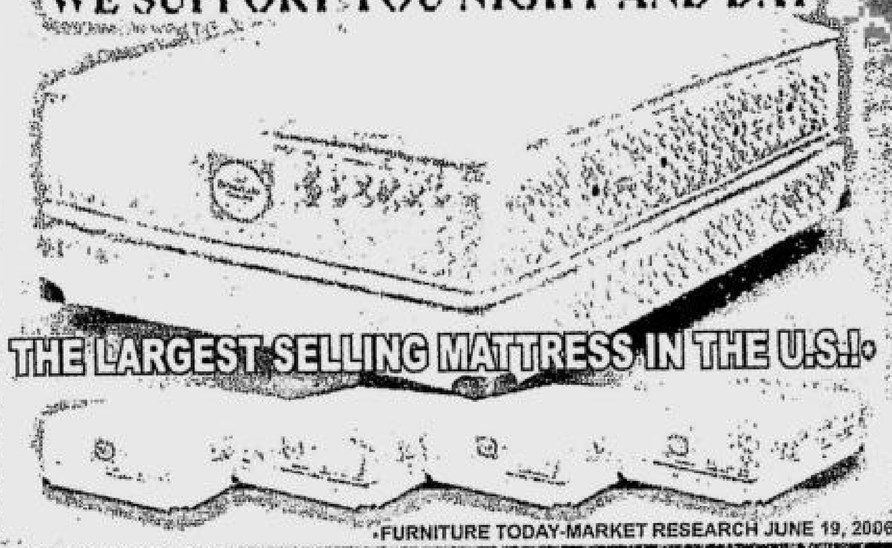

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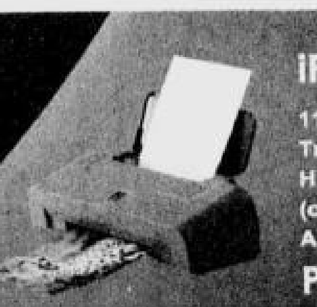

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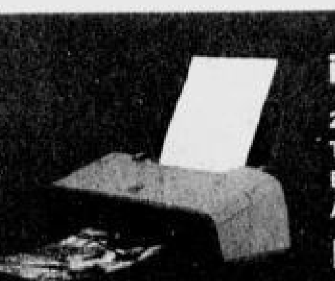

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Makati's No. 2 cop shot dead, youngest of 5 brother cops

BOCALBOS

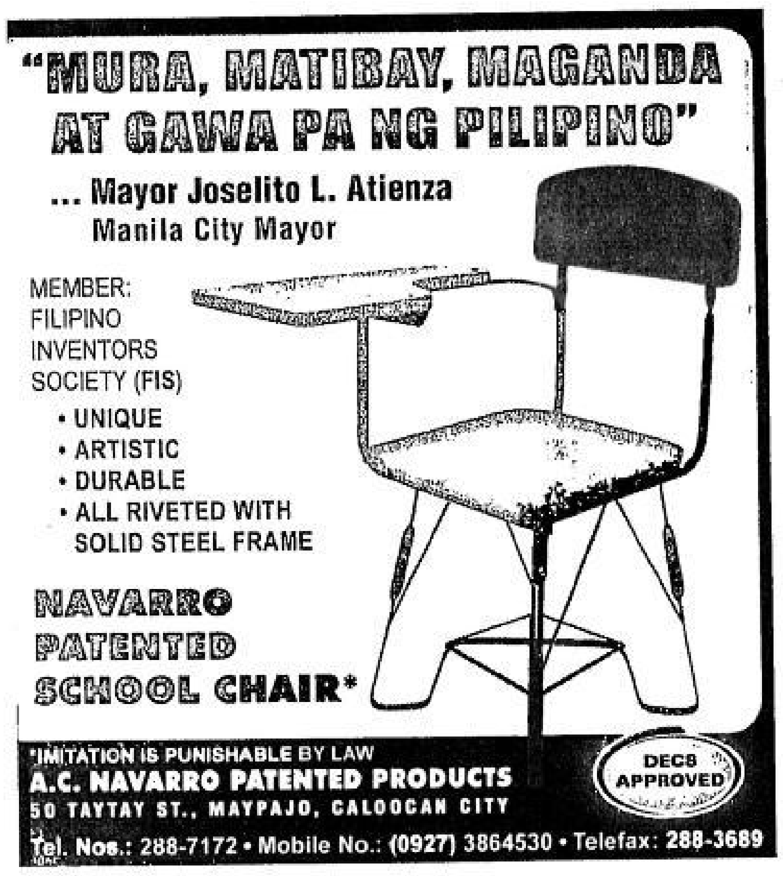
From page A1

pumped into the back of his head by an armed robber.

Jovem, a father of three young children, just assumed the post as deputy chief of police in Makati City on May 7.

He was moonlighting as a passenger van driver to augment his income when robbers held up the vehicle carrying 13 other passengers in Quezon City.

Maria Cristina Bocalbos, Jovem's widow, tearfully said, "He only ferried passengers for fun. We tried to talk him out of it but he did not want anybody else driving his van."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Jovem's 35-year-old wife said that they bought the green Nissan Urvan (XED-744) in February and it was only several weeks ago that he decided to convert it into a public utility vehicle.

"There were other cops who ferry passengers using their private vehicles. He was encouraged to follow suit. He also thought that the money he earned from ferrying passengers could give additional income for our children," she said.

Jovem left three kids with Maria Cristina: Jack Luis, 13; Jill Christie, 12; and, Jaricc, 6.

"Whoever did this will answer to the law," said Supt. Joaquin Bocalbos, who is deputy station commander at the Pandacan police station of the Manila Police District, as he looked at his younger brother's body at the Funeraria Filipinas in Las Piñas City.

The older Bocalbos pointed out that the robbers could just have fled with their loot and spared his brother.

"There was no threat posed to them. They outnumbered my brother. They already got his gun. Why did they have to kill him? he said.

Based on initial police reports, the five suspects boarded Jovem's Nissan Urvan between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Metro Rail Transit station on Quezon Avenue, and announced a robbery upon reaching Commonwealth.

One of them shot Bocalbos when they discovered he had a gun strapped to his waist, investigators said.

Joaquin disclosed that Jovem's death followed their brother Joannem's death while he was still training with the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA).

IN THE KNOW

6 of 10 policemen live below poverty line

SIX OUT OF 10 MEMBERS of the 120,000-strong police force live below the poverty line because of their meager salaries, said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno in 2006.

A Police Officer 1 receives the gross amount of P13,155 in basic pay and allowances monthly, according to the Philippine National Police salary scale, which is equal to that of public school teachers.

The director general receives P30,680 a month, before tax.

PNP members assigned in Metro Manila, chartered cities and first class municipalities may be given additional financial incentives by the local government, as mandated by Republic Act No. 8551 or the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

SALARY SCALE FOR THE POLICE FORCE

(monthly, in Pesos)

Rank	Basic Pay	Gross*
PO1	P 8,605	P13,155
PO2	9,668	14,218
PO3	10,863	15,413
SPO1	12,206	16,806
SPO2	12,938	17,538
SPO3	13,715	18,365
SPO4	14,538	19,188
Inspector	16,667	21,447
Sr. Inspector	17,334	22,164
Chief Inspector	18,028	22,908
Superintendent	18,749	23,729
Sr. Supt.	19,499	24,579
Chief Supt.	20,279	25,509
Director	21,090	26,470
Deputy Dir. Gen.	21,934	27,414
Director General	25,000	30,680

*-Basic Pay + Allowances**
**-Quarter Allowance (monthly): ranges from P400 for PO1-PO3 to P1,500 for the director general
Laundry Allowance: P30 for PO1-SPO4 and P60 for the rest
Subsistence Allowance: P1,800
Clothing Allowance: P200
Hazard Pay: P120
Personnel Economic Relief Allowance: P500
Additional Compensation: P1,500

Source: Philippine National Police

Bigger tragedy

Joaquin said that the bigger tragedy was that the robbers ended the career of a promising and intelligent police official, who could have contributed much to the PNP.

He said that Jovem finished second in the PNPA class of 1991 and finished at the top of his intelligence course class.

He also showed exemplary writing skills, which earned him a place as public information officer and police community relations chief of then Southern Police District (SPD) Director Sr. Supt. Ricardo Padilla.

Puzzled

"He was an aggressive officer. When he ordered things done, he wanted them done right away. If a pursuit was required, he made a pursuit," said Joaquin, who admitted that the incident in which his brother refused to fight off the robbers puzzled him.

But he said Jovem might have "sized up the situation" and thought that he could not fight off the robbers without hurting innocent civilians.

"He might have thought to himself that he was outnumbered and that he needed to secure his passengers that is why he never attempted to fight. He might also have thought that as soon as the robbers ransack their valuables, they would just escape," he said.

Based on reports from the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU), the shooting happened at around 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, on Commonwealth Avenue in Fairview.

Suspects posed as passengers

Jovem was plying the Quezon Avenue to Almar-Zabarte Road in Novaliches when the suspects, who posed as passengers, drew their handguns and announced the heist.

The robbers then instructed Bocalbos to pull over and then commandeered the vehicle.

Bocalbos was ordered to sit at the middle portion of the vehicle while the designated driver of the group made a U-turn at the stoplight near Fairview Market.

However, the suspects reportedly noticed the victim's constant shifting of position and frisked him. It was then that the gunman disarmed him and shot him in the nape.

Divested of valuables

At this juncture, while Bocalbos sat bleeding, the other suspects divested the passengers of their valuables and took the police officer's service firearm.

The robbers drove the vehicle to Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City, where they abandoned it with the 14 passengers still aboard.

As soon as the suspects were out of sight, one of the victims took over the steering wheel and drove the Urvan to the M-Tech Hospital in Makati City in an attempt to save Supt. Bocalbos but to no avail.

The police officer was declared dead on arrival at the hospital at around 8:45 p.m.

Ferried passengers for fun

The twins SPO2 Joseph Pablo and SPO4 Joseph Pedro, who are respectively assigned with the Pasay City Police of the Southern Police District and the Manila Police District, respectively, expressed sadness and shock over their brother's death, shaking their heads that their younger brother had to go before them.

The Bocalbos expressed faith that the institution that their family has been so much a part of, the PNP, would place Jovem's killers behind bars.

Earning honest buck

Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, spokesperson of the PNP, promised swift police action to arrest the perpetrators of Jovem's murder.

"It's very unfortunate. He was just trying to earn an honest buck during his off-duty hours," Pagdilao said.

Pagdilao said the leadership of the national police force would make sure Bocalbos' family get the benefits due the slain police officer.

He said the salary of a policeman was not enough.

The QCPD has come up with artist's sketches of three of the five suspects.

"Almost all units are moving and have momentarily set aside their current work to focus on the case," QCPD Director Sr. Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula said.

The suspected gunman, a witness and victim recalled, had allegedly told Bocalbos before shooting him in the back of the head, "I know your style. I am also a police officer."

But Gatdula said the QCPD was still verifying the information, pointing out, "Anybody can claim to be a cop to mislead the investigation. We are looking into that right now."

Colleagues and friends remembered the slain police officer to be an unassuming man who went about his work quietly but effectively.

Model officer

"He was a model officer. I think he did a good job representing the police force in the community," said Bocalbos' former boss, Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, Southern Police District director.

"I think he brought dignity to his position," Rosales said.

Bocalbos was Rosales' community relations officer before he transferred to his post as deputy chief of police of Makati.

"He was very professional. Every day he would come to the office in a clean and neatly pressed uniform," the official said.

The city's chief of police, Gilbert Cruz, said Bocalbos was able to implement police procedures well. "He was OK. He performed his duties well," he said.

Rarity

More than that, Cruz said Bocalbos was a straight and decent cop—traits considered to be a rarity in the PNP.

"I studied his files, and there were no disciplinary actions meted out to him," he said. "He was clean."

His death at the hands of armed robbers saddened Rosales and Cruz, who considered him a loss to the police force.

Even once in his career, Rosales said he had to sell meat and fish products to add to his meager earnings as a policeman.

"Every day, policemen face risks to their lives, but despite that, the compensation is not enough," Rosales said.

Cruz said there were probably more policemen like Bocalbos who had to moonlight as drivers to earn more.

Need to adjust salaries

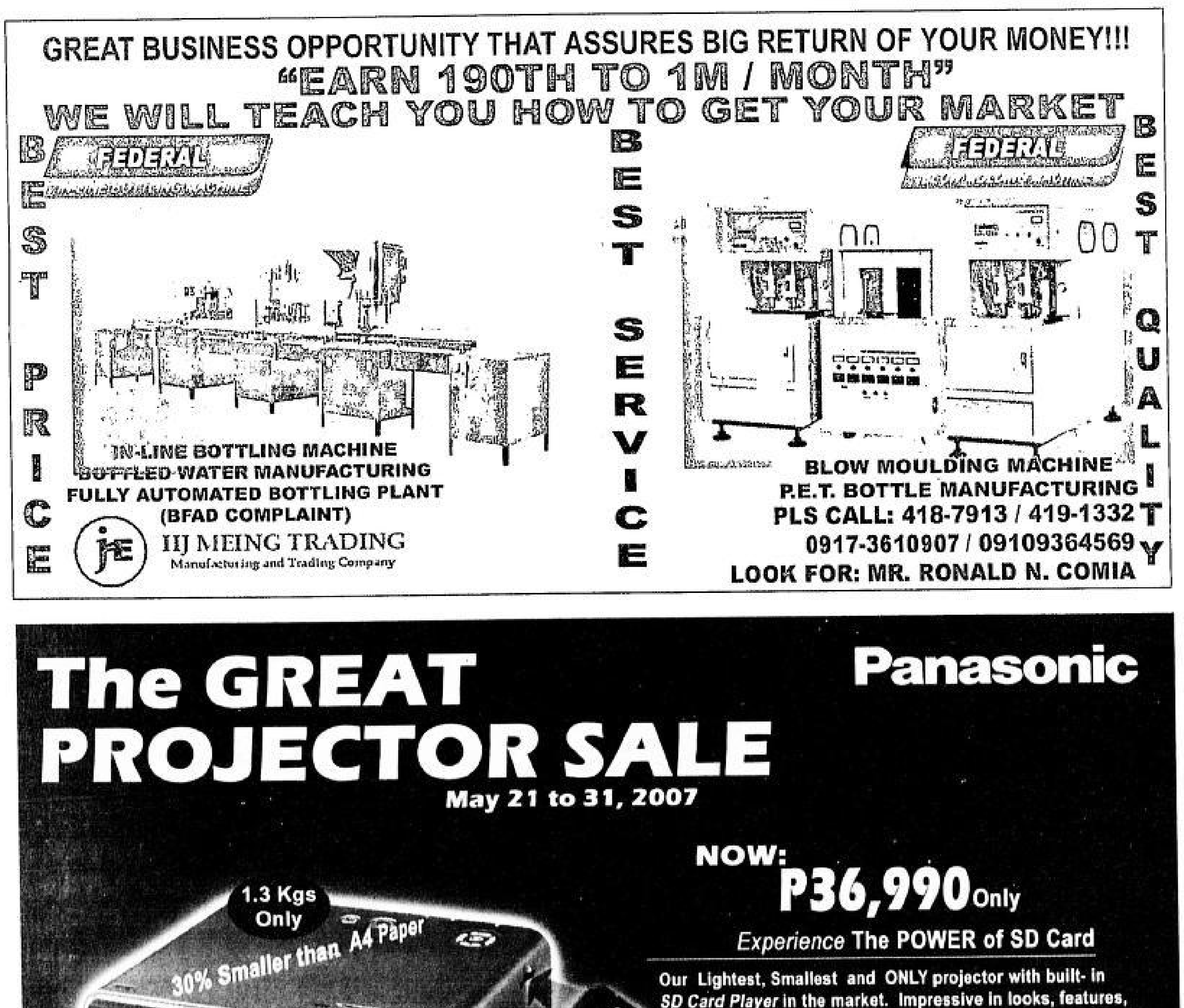
The killing of Bocalbos underscores the need to adjust the salaries of police personnel, Makati Mayor-elect Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

He deplored the "dismal plight" of the members of the PNP, which he blamed on the inadequacy of their pay and benefits.

"Many of them, especially those with families to support, have been compelled to take on odd jobs while off duty, even those that they know are very risky, just to earn the extra income they need to survive," Binay said.

Even as the reelected mayor expressed his condolences to the victim's family, he took the national government to task for failing its duty to uplift the conditions of PNP personnel.

He noted that despite the Makati government's support to its police force, including monthly allowances of between P1,500 and P2,000, it was still the national government's "greater responsibility" to improve the police personnel's living conditions. *With reports from DJ Yap, Kristine Liu and Alcuin Papa*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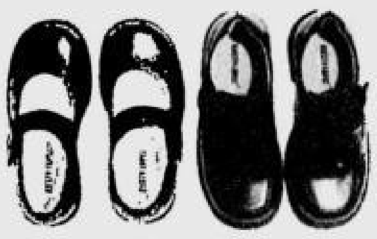

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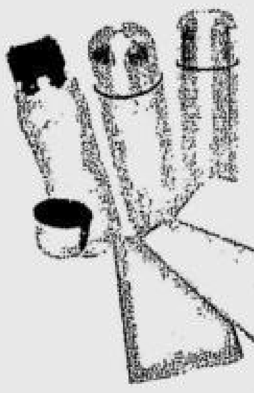

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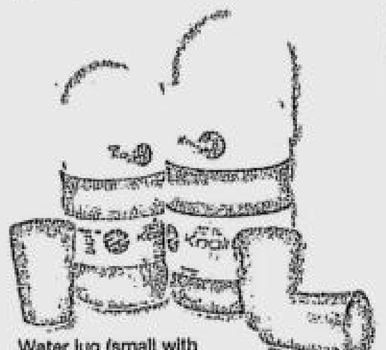

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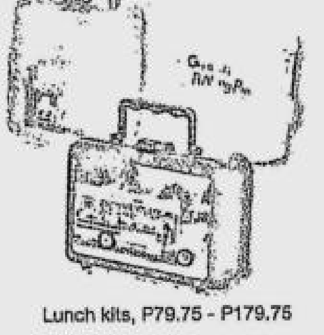

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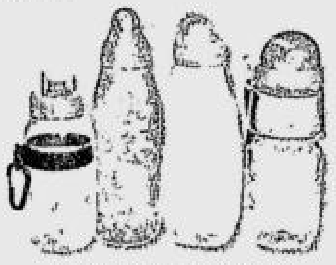

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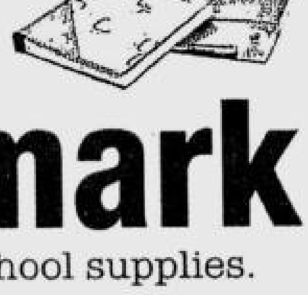

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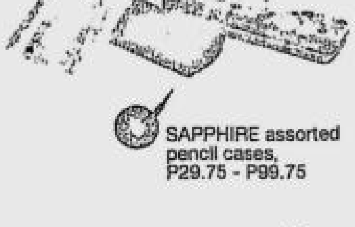

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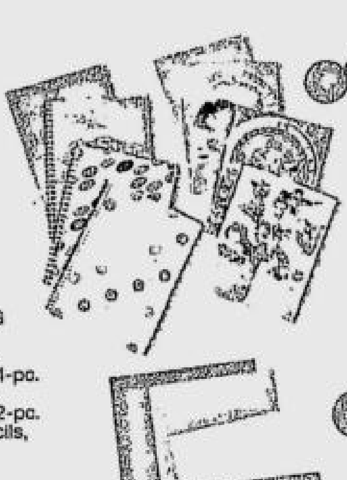

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'Hospital holiday' off; Pia explains

From page A1

wide would only attend to emergency cases and would tell those coming for consultations to go to other hospitals instead.

PHAP spokesperson Dr. Rustico Jimenez said the group decided to defer the scheduled holiday while it worked with the Department of Health to craft the implementing rules and regulations for the law and come up with solutions to the hospitals' concerns.

The militant workers' group Partido ng Manggagawa said the government should not hesitate using its police power in preventing the hospital holiday, which it labeled a "capitalist strike."

'Capitalist strike'

"The planned hospital holiday against the Hospital Detention Law was, in reality, a strike by capitalist doctors against indigent patients. It was obviously meant to protect the profit of private hospitals not the welfare of poor patients," PM secretary general Judy Ann Miranda said.

In a statement, Cayetano said that "private hospital owners are entitled to voice out their grievances, but I feel that suspending operations for an entire day, or for a series of days, would be a gross disservice to the public, particularly to their patients whose lives and well-being they have sworn to save and protect as medical professionals."

Legal safeguards

According to her, the law incorporates safeguards that would prevent patients from abusing it at the expense of the hospitals' own financial survival.

RA 9439 was only applicable to charity patients and would not cover those in private rooms, she said as she countered warnings that the law would be abused by patients pretending to be poor to avoid payment.

The law also does not stop hospitals from imposing different payment schemes on patients admitted in private rooms, the senator said.

Cayetano said other possible sources of funds could still be tapped to cover for unpaid bills.

"I share the view that the problem of unpaid hospital bills is but a symptom of a bigger crisis in the health sector that could be dealt with more comprehensively, not only through legislation, but through health sector reforms," she said.

Talks with DOH

Jimenez said the group listened to the request of Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla to postpone the protest while the talks with the DOH were ongoing.

PADILLA: Asks to postpone the protest.

CAYETANO: The law only for charity patients.

"This is a give-and-take situation. We decided to defer the holiday while we talk with the DOH so that we would not be accused of just wanting to harass patients," he said.

But Jimenez said that if the discussions with the DOH would be unproductive, the group would push through with its hospital holidays in the coming months. The PHAP had originally set two to three hospital holidays a month from June to December.

Padilla said he was glad that the PHAP listened to the department's request, but added that Congress should have included provisions on tax incentives, tax breaks and other alternatives for private hospitals in the law.

Unpaid bills

PHAP executive secretary Edlane Ulama said the group would ask its members to submit data about the unpaid promissory notes to them so that the group could present these to back up their concerns about the hospital detention law.

Jimenez earlier said many hospitals had a lot of problems with unpaid bills since only about one in 10 patients who issued promissory notes actually honored these. Others give fictitious names or addresses, he added.

He said there should be government offices who could act as guarantors for the promissory notes so that the operations of hospitals would not suffer.

The lack of payments by patients would translate to a dearth of funds for medicine, equipment and salaries of employees, he said.

Brain drain

The inability to properly compensate doctors and nurses also leads to them going abroad and depriving the country of competent medical personnel.

Jimenez said the hospital holiday was not intended to harm the patients but was meant to show the government that publicly funded hospitals alone could not handle all the patients.

Miranda noted that when workers wanted to go on strike, they could be prevented by the state through the labor department's power to assume jurisdiction over industries serving the "national interest."

If the government will not use its authority to bar the hospital holiday as it did in many labor strikes, this is clear proof of double standard, Miranda said. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Abalos brod's 'tricycle ...

From page A1

huge votes in at least two municipalities in Basilan.

In Lantawan, the tricycle drivers' party-list garnered 1,480 votes and was ahead of Anak Mindanao, which enjoys a mass base in Basilan, but got only 1,403 votes, said Joven Diamante, legal counsel of Bantay RA 7941.

In Tipo-Tipo, Biyaheng Pinoy was not far behind with 2,982 compared with Anak Mindanao's 3,981, the lawyer said.

Diamante said he was in Basilan to monitor the canvassing of votes for party-list groups allegedly fronting for Malacañang and to represent a congressional candidate of Lakas-CMD.

"It's highly suspicious," he told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview from Basilan.

"*Bastusan na talaga* (They've lost all decency)," added Rosales, who first accused Biyaheng Pinoy of fronting for the Arroyo administration. The group is headed by Dr. Arsenio Abalos, elder brother of the Comelec chair.

A 'Mr. Akbar'

Sought for comment, the elder Abalos who is the group's second nominee, said there was nothing surprising or irregular about his group's strong showing in Basilan because its fourth nominee was a certain "Mr. Akbar."

"One of our nominees is from Basilan so that shouldn't be a surprise," he said, noting that his group had a membership of 1.8 million tricycle drivers and operators nationwide.

However, he didn't say if the nominee was related to Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar. Asked for the nominee's complete name, Abalos said he didn't know.

"He doesn't know his group's nominees? Then how were they chosen? What kind of group are they?" Rosales asked.

Diamante said Abalos and his group could just be "using that person (Mr. Akbar) to justify their statistically improbable votes."

More votes than voters

Besides Biyaheng Pinoy's strong showing in Basilan, Diamante's group also questioned the alleged discrepancies in the number of votes cast and the number of votes tallied in certain towns in the province.

In Ungkaya Pukan town, where only 5,816 people voted, he said he tallied 5,941 votes for five party-list groups alone.

Diamante said Anak Mindanao got 1,350; Aangat Tayo, 2,299; Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino (ALIF), 1,137; Sulong! Barangay Movement, 471; You Against Corruption and Poverty (Yacap), 684.

In Tipo-Tipo, a town of only 8,409 registered voters, the lawyer said the number of votes tallied was 10,097.

Diamante said Anak Mindanao garnered 3,981; Biyaheng Pinoy, 2,982; Sulong! Barangay Movement, 1,134; Yacap, 1,120; and Novelty Entrepreneurship and Livelihood for Food Inc. (NELFFI), 880.

He noted that he had consolidated the votes for only four to five party-list groups when the total number of organizations gunning for congressional seats was 93.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 25, 2007
7th Week of Easter
Venerable Bede / Gregory VII / Mary Magdalene de Pazzi

1st Reading: Acts 25:13-21
Gospel: John 21:15-19

After Jesus and his disciples had finished breakfast, he said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." And Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" And Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep." And a third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was saddened because Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."

Jesus then said, "Feed my sheep. Truly, I say to you, when you were young you put on your belt and walked where you liked. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and another will put a belt around you and lead you where you do not wish to go."

Jesus said this to make known the kind of death by which Peter was to glorify God. And he added, "Follow me."

Commentary

Paul's case is brought before the king, as is Roman custom, and he explains that it is an internal disagreement on religious issues about a certain Jesus who died, but whom Paul claims is alive. Paul asks for an imperial investigation of his case, so he is in custody until he can be sent to the emperor. Paul has gone to Jerusalem but will make sure that he ends up in Rome, using his Roman citizenship. This serves him well on occasion and at other times becomes problematic-conflicting with his citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Now we hear Peter's reconciliation with Jesus after breakfast on the beach—how the Church is to deal with leaders who fail the community (and they all do at some time and cause scandal and discouragement to all). Three times he avows his love for Jesus and three times he is reminded to care for the sheep and forget about himself. And then, after being forgiven and reconciled, he atones—he learns how to make things at-one-ment, in the community, and restores what has been rent apart. Peter will die, by crucifixion, but when the time comes, he will know his unworthiness and he will glorify God. And he begins, as we all do, at the beginning: follow me.

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84% of voters not influenced by surveys – SWS

ONLY 16 OUT OF EVERY 100 Filipino voters said election survey news affect the way they vote, according to a pre-election survey by the Social Weather Stations.

The survey also found that three out of every 100 registered voters could be called "bandwagonners"—or those who would switch to "stronger candidates"—while five out of every 100 could be called "underdoggers," defined as those who would favor "weaker candidates."

"Thus the votes of 84 percent were not affected by election surveys at all," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Asked if they had read or heard of any news on surveys about who would most likely win the senatorial race, 48 percent said they were aware of election survey news, while 52 percent said they were not.

Those who were aware of election survey news were asked whether they would change their votes "to a candidate strong in surveys from one weak in surveys" and whether they would change their votes "to a candidate weak in surveys from one strong in surveys."

Two-thirds

About two-thirds of those who were aware, or 32 percent of the total respondents, said "no" to both questions.

Across areas, awareness of election survey news was highest in Metro Manila (58 percent). It was 52 percent in the Visayas, 51 percent in the balance of Luzon and only 35 percent in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, the percentage of those who said that election survey news would have no effect on their votes was also highest in Metro Manila (43 percent). It was 37 percent in the rest of Luzon, 32 percent in Visayas and 19 percent in Mindanao.

Across socio-economic classes, awareness of election survey news was highest among members of upper to middle classes ABC (77 percent) and lowest among members of poorest class E (39 percent). Nearly half of class D (49 percent) was aware of such news.

Fifty-five percent in class ABC, 33 percent in class D and 26 percent in class E also said that the election survey news had no effect on their votes.

The survey was conducted from May 2 to 4 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

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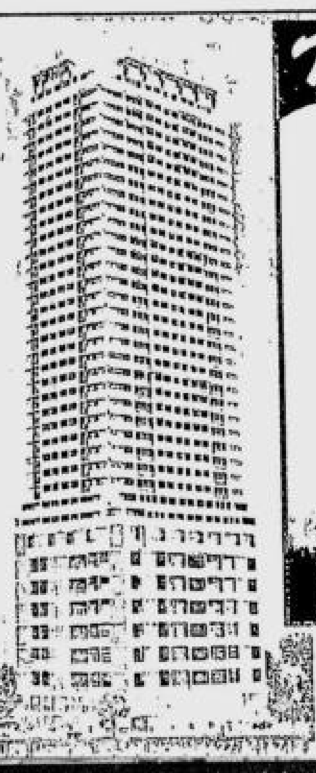

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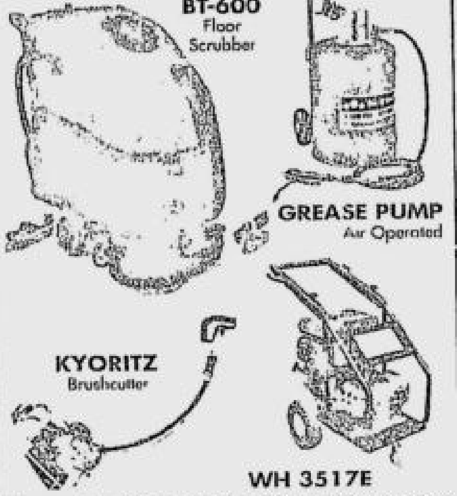

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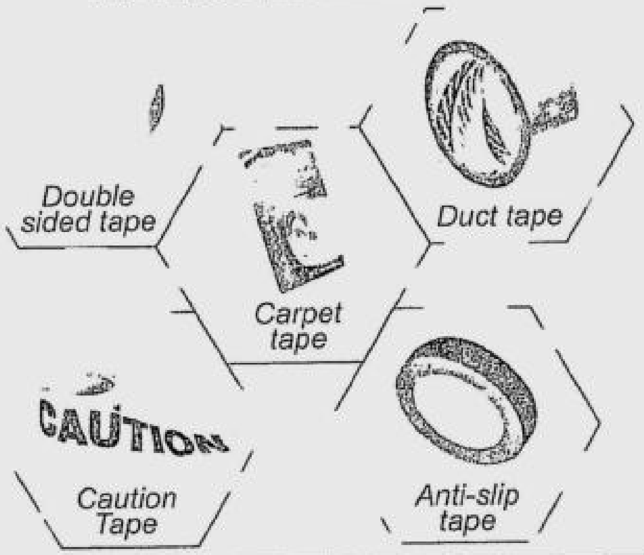

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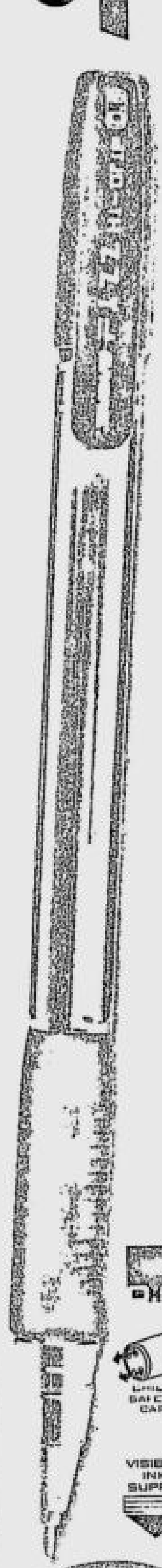

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Soldiers take lead to guard Lanao pol

From page A1

electoral process, "as jointly identified by the Comelec and the DND-AFP."

Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, said PNP members would "stay in the towns to perform normal law-enforcement functions."

Election-related orders will come from the military leadership, Army Col. Ronnie Javier told the INQUIRER.

Sarmiento, who is in charge of the ARMM, arrived here yesterday morning to personally supervise the special polls, the results of which could affect the senatorial race.

Balloting could not be held in the 13 towns on May 14 because of the presence of armed goons. Fearing for their safety, election officers and members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) refused to report for work.

To support, or replace, the local election officers, Sarmiento imported officials from other regions to serve as "special action officers (SAO)."

Each of them will get nine soldiers as security escorts, according to SAO Aleli Ramirez, who will serve in Kapai town.

"That is what they told us. So right now we don't feel nervous. We will be provided our own security personnel. They will go wherever I go," Ramirez said.

Police as BEIs

But policemen will not be entirely sidelined. Goltiao said 64 police trainees with the rank of police officer 1 will serve as BEIs in Sultan Dumalondong town.

In other towns where BEIs will not show up again, Sarmiento said the Commission on Elections would probably tap registered voters in those areas.

Sarmiento is expecting a heavy turnout of voters: "We are very hopeful that with the security to be provided by the AFP and the PNP, we have mitigated the fears of the electorate."

But power was cut in parts of the city several times, with the last interruption occurring just as Sarmiento wrapped up the command conference.

Four Army battalions and almost two battalions of policemen are to be deployed tomorrow.

The special elections will be held in the towns of Pualas, Butig, Lumbatan, Marogong, Kapatagan, Sultan Dumalondong, Lumbayanague, Kapai, Madalum, Lumba Bayabao, Masiu, Binidayan and Bayang.

'Domestic observer'

Lomibao joined the command conference of the security team for the special polls while Palparan stayed outside the room and mingled with Army officers, almost all of whom were brandishing rifles and guns.

"If there are foreign observers, I am a domestic observer," Lomibao told the INQUIRER when asked what his role in the security preparations would be.

Goltiao said Lomibao would "grade" the level of security that the military had prepared.

Lomibao said he would give his inputs after the security plan had been presented.

Palparan said it was his own decision to show up at the command conference held at a resort inside the Mindanao State University main campus. (Because of the special polls, the resort which normally accommodates only up to 100 persons now has over 200 guests.)

COMELEC Commissioner Rene Sarmiento is flanked by Gen. Joel Glotiao, ARMM police director and Nejemias Fajarito during a press conference in Marawi City on Thursday.

REM ZAMO

"I came here on my own," he told the INQUIRER, adding that he lived in nearby Cagayan de Oro City, a two-hour drive from Marawi.

Palparan said he would also monitor the conduct of the polls to protect the votes for the party-list group Bantay, of which he is a nominee.

"We hope that the elections will be peaceful, that no lives will be sacrificed," he said.

Asked to comment on the postponement of elections in Lanao del Sur, Palparan said the region had long had "security problems."

Said Goltiao: "We will secure the [BEIs] and the election supervisors.

'Rework' operation

"[Election workers] have no reason to worry. They are well-informed of our security preparations. We expect the special elections to be peaceful and orderly."

"It's 2004 again!" was how H
Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the
tional Citizens' Movement for F
Elections (Namfrel) in Lanao
Sur, described the canvassing
votes of senatorial candidate
the province.

It was Dalidig who blew
whistle on the alleged mass
fraud committed in Lanao del

Moro 'culture' exploited by 'Christian North'

From page A1

canvassed, could spell victory or defeat for senatorial candidates fighting for the last three to four slots in the Top 12.

Moving target

The special elections "precisely put the province in a position to determine the last members of the Magic 12, and you can expect anyone in danger of falling out of the Magic 12 to be there" in Lanao, according to Casiple.

This was how he described the scenario:

Any financier of vote-buying in Mindanao cuts deals primarily with the leaders of the dominant clan in a target area—and that clan pretty much extends to the mayors, the local police, the election inspectors and the canvassers.

Clan elders can then set the "price" per vote according to the highest bidder.

"It's a moving target," Casiple said. If the race goes neck and neck near the end of the canvassing, for example, a senatorial candidate hanging on to No. 13 may place a "bid" of P10,000 per vote, but a lower-ranking candidate may come up with a better offer of P25,000.

Plotted in Manila

But election-rigging schemes are mainly plotted in Manila and carried out by "operators" who only flock to Mindanao during election seasons, said Mehol Sadain, a former Comelec commissioner who was in charge of Region IX.

"It's wrong to say outright that cheating is done by Muslims; it's the operators from the Christian North who exploit the people's ignorance, complacency and apathy," he said.

Sadain conceded that elections in Muslim provinces had long been "problematic."

But this is because "the people still do not have a real appreciation of the right to suffrage under a Western [-modelled] Constitution," he said.

There is also that element of "distrust" that can be traced back to when Moros fiercely resisted Spanish and American colonizers, both of whom employed native Christian troops to invade Muslim bastions, he said.

For these segments of the Moro populace, "lineage"—and not democratic exercises like elections—is still the prevailing principle for choosing leaders, according to Sadain.

"They just would not care, and for them voting is something mechanical that they have to do. And it's their lack of interest that makes it possible for the leaders and operators to 'substitute' their votes," he said.

This can also help explain why the mostly Christian poll-watching groups have found it difficult to penetrate Moro communities with voters' education campaigns or to find whistleblowers among the voters, he added.

Guns or cash

The few citizens who think it their duty to question the supposed electoral exercise are often met with a drawn gun or offered cash in exchange for their silence, Sadain said.

He recalled a local election held in Basilan in 2005, when teachers at the polling precincts in one school could only watch in terror as "15 barangay chairmen" barged in, "filled out all the ballots themselves," and stuffed these in ballot boxes.

In such a situation, "fear is something you cannot just solve by holding automated elections," Sadain said

Added Casiple
change in culture a

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that supposedly favored President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

Dalidig said the operation to "rework" the results of the senatorial race had started because national positions were left out during the canvassing of votes at the town level.

"[The canvassing] only considered votes [for] the local posts. This is already the start of the rework operation," he said.

By leaving out the senatorial and party-list votes in the municipal canvass, the figures to be reflected in the certificates of canvass (CoCs) can be manufactured, according to Dalidig.

The figures reflected in the election returns (ERs) from the precincts are the basis for the municipal-level canvass. The ERs, in turn, contain the votes garnered by candidates per the count of the ballots cast.

Dalidig warned that the "rework" operation might have already reached the level of ERs.

Local race first

Namfrel poll watchers tried to question the noncanvass of votes for national posts, but election officers merely "advised them to refer the matter" to Comelec-ARMM regional director Rey Sumalipao, Dalidig said.

He said this was very similar to 2004 occurrences, except that the political operators were first settling the local contest to avoid complications.

"With the local contest settled, nobody will be interested anymore in the senatorial votes except the poll watchdogs and [Namfrel]," he said.

Aside from ensuring the victory of favored senatorial candidates, the rigging operation also appears to include party-list votes, Dalidig said.

A status report submitted by a Namfrel volunteer detailed a phone conversation she had personally overheard involving a local election official during a municipal canvass.

The volunteer in her report quoted the election official as saying that the votes for Yacap sa Bumbaran had been submitted to the provincial board of canvassers.

She said the votes could have been padded except that the votes for Alif would be disturbed.

Alif stands for the party-list group Laban ng Indiginong Filipino, which has three members of the Tomawis family of Lanao del Sur as nominees.

More than voters

Raisah Cayuga, who is in charge of the Namfrel database, said about 30 percent of the over 1,000 ERs so far received by Namfrel contained votes that exceeded the number of voters in 17 towns of Lanao del Sur.

She cited the case of a precinct in Ditsaan Ramain town, which had 238 voters but the number of party-list votes cast was 632.

Namfrel also disclosed a miniature version of Maguindanao province, with 29 ERs gathered from Sultan Gumander town showing a 12-0 sweep for the Team Unity senatorial candidates.

The ERs also showed Alif cornering all the party-list votes in the town.

But Namfrel said an examination of the handwriting on the ERs showed that only a few people had prepared the documents.

The ERs also contained very neat tallies of votes, Namfrel said.

"These are indicators of a home-worked election," Dalidig said. *With reports from Ryan Rosauro, Dennis Santos and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

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ly.

will really take a basic
d values."

Taja Basman, president of
Center for Moderate
Mindanao Research Insti-
easily resolves any moral
people about accepting
their votes.
infrastructure effectively
of Comelec control, espe-
lands, said Basman, who
study on how his native
one down in history as the
birds and the bees also
hildren as young as 12 and
voters] by their parents

in exchange for P1,000."

Empower voters

But immediate solutions—or deterrents in time for future elections—can be put in place, he said.

Basman suggested that elections be held in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao ahead of the rest of the country, the way it is done for overseas and local absentee voters.

A purge of shady election officials at the local level may also be initiated by focusing the so-called "lifestyle check" on these persons after an election, he said.

But then, Basman said, real change and empowerment might still need to start from the voters themselves: Taught for generations to believe that "might is right" and to be subservient to their powerful leaders, "hopefully, one day they will come to their senses."

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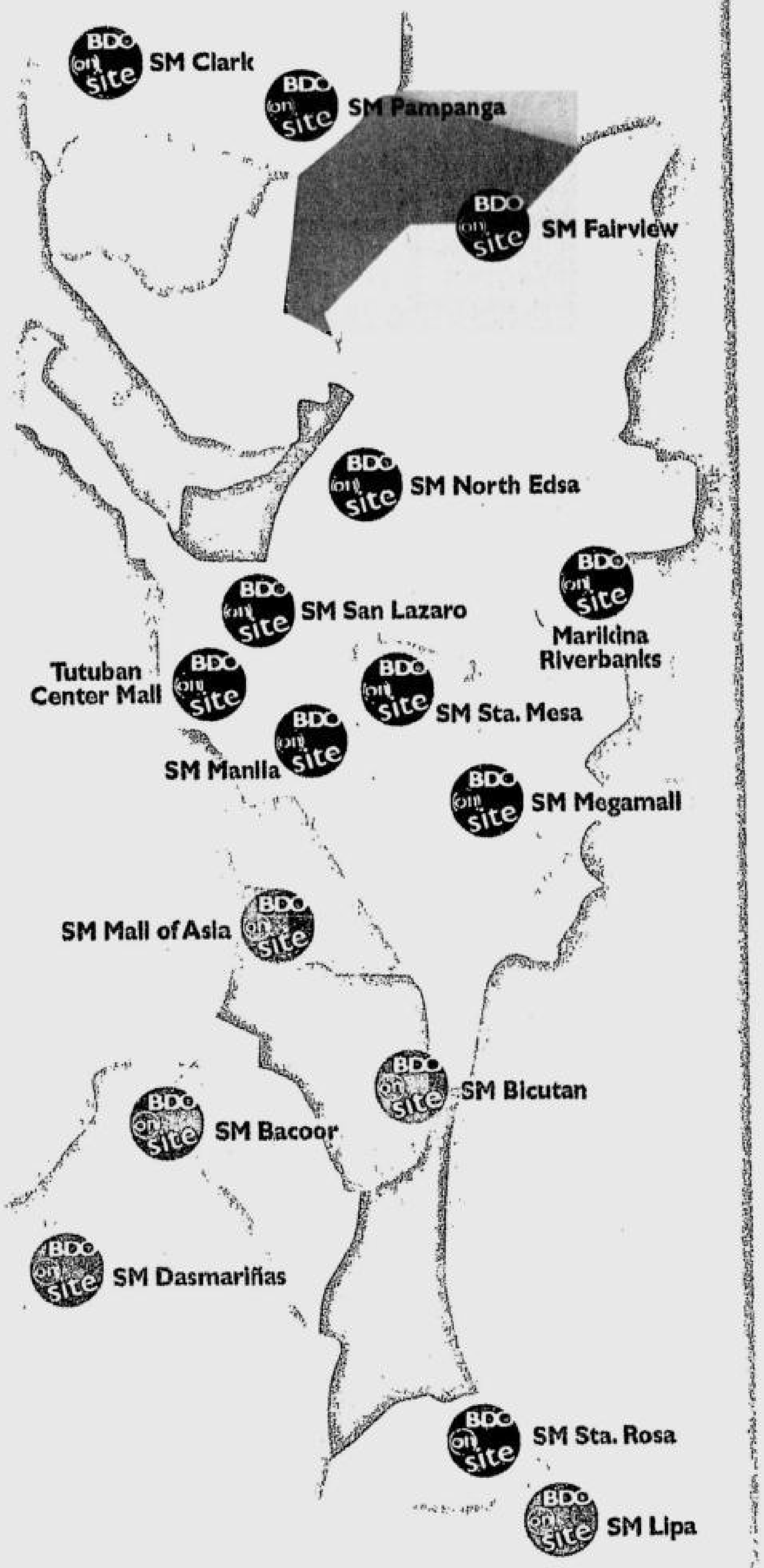

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OPINION

Showdown

OUR READERS WHO LIVED THROUGH THE Japanese Occupation will remember what it was like to listen to hollow propaganda. The official news was victory after glorious victory for the Japanese, even as Filipinos knew otherwise from "kuwentong kutsero" sourced from the guerrilla media and short wave broadcasts from the Allies. The Japanese and the puppet media then were in the same position that those insisting on "command votes" and "machinery" are in, now: disbelieved, discredited and disabused—by reality. The Filipino people know better.

EDITORIAL

Despite sustained efforts to predict otherwise, a nationwide shudder of revulsion against the administration's senatorial candidates has taken place, one so widespread it was experienced even in places proclaimed as administration bailiwicks since 2004. Most of these bailiwicks have instead proven firmly part of what Amando Doronila describes as a "measure of the scale of the electoral disaster suffered by the administration as well as of the national mood of rejection."

Every step along the way, the Comelec count was shadowed by the count of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, to the extent that the dogged persistence of Namfrel and many other groups—the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, Lente, Bantay Boto, No Cheats, Kontra Daya, to name just a few—kept the Namfrel and Comelec tallies remarkably similar to each other and the overall results at 8-2-2. And these numbers have been backed up by reports from the provinces as to how people voted.

The question is, can the writing on the wall still be erased?

By tomorrow, the Comelec is expected to proclaim at least eight, maybe nine new senators, and Namfrel will start packing up preparatory to moving out of the La Salle Greenhills gym. By all accounts, the sure winners already include the two Team Unity bets that have consistently figured in the 8-2-2 results of both Namfrel and the Comelec. What could change the outcome, then, are the last few places in the senatorial race, where at least two TU bets claim they still have a fighting chance. If that happens, the overall results will change to 6-4-2.

The battle for the last four slots of the senatorial race now depends on places like Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, each representing a roughly equal chunk of votes, in the 300,000 range. But the same determination by electoral watchdogs that has made life difficult for the Comelec nationally has essentially taken Maguindanao and its command votes out of the running. When a revitalized Namfrel publicly announced that even if election returns from Maguindanao belatedly appear, it won't count the votes as they're too tainted, the usefulness of those votes to justify the election of two more administration bets was severely compromised (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's valiant attempts on insisting they really matter to the contrary notwithstanding).

So it boils down to Lanao del Sur, or to be precise, the 13 towns that will go to the polls tomorrow, because these towns had been too terrorized to vote on May 14. These towns represent some 100,000 votes. These votes can fundamentally affect the political fortunes of Antonio Trillanes, Aquilino Pimentel III, Ralph Recto, Miguel Zubiri and possibly even Mike Defensor and Prospero Pichay. In other words, Lanao del Sur can buck the national trend, or confirm it. The country, and not just the candidates, need to know that whatever the Lanao voters decide, they did so freely, and their votes were properly canvassed.

For tired and in many cases previously threatened watchdog volunteers, the PPCRV and Lente in particular, it means a near-superhuman effort to focus on the conduct of the voting and the counting. It will require a dedicated effort from Namfrel to both ascertain the validity of ERs and count them properly. It will require media risking reporters and camera and radio crews to basically flood the province and reveal: Will tomorrow be about the will of the people, or the will of the warlords?

It will be a showdown between democracy and transparency on one side, and the undemocratic notions of command votes and machinery pledged to deliver regardless of the cost, on the other. At stake is a combined national effort to render an accurate, impartial, incontestable verdict on the conduct of the Lanao polls.

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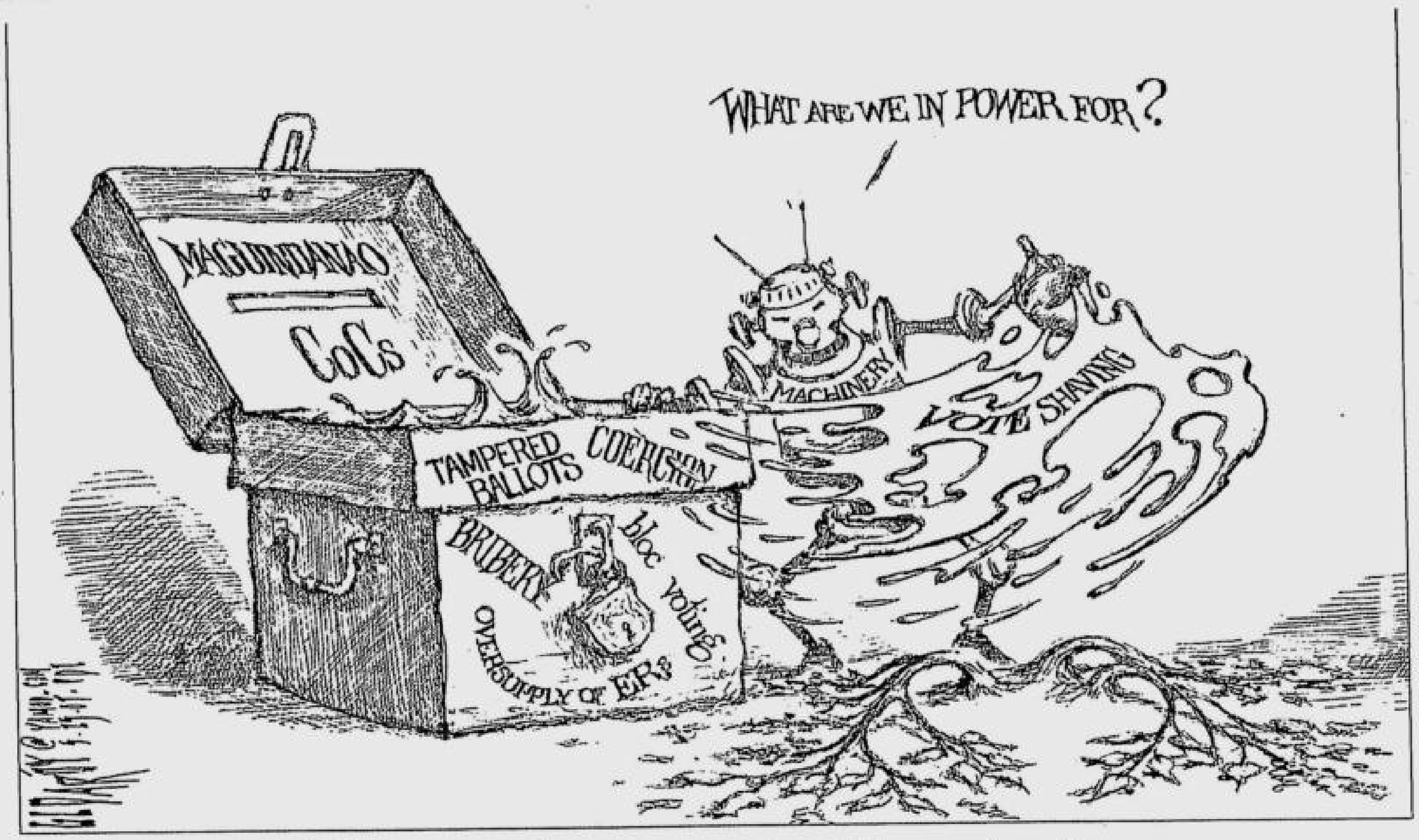


Hold new elections in Maguindanao

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DUE TO THE CHARGES AND COUNTER-charges of cheating and lying in the Maguindanao elections, isn't it commonsensical and practical to hold new elections in the province? Poll results in Maguindanao, which has 360,000 registered voters, can affect the rankings of senatorial candidates from the ninth to the 16th slots. Right now, the bets occupying these positions are Cayetano, Honasan, Trillanes, Pimentel, Zubiri, Recto, Defensor and Pichay. Thus, the fate of these eight candidates depends on the Maguindanao votes. It is imperative for the Commission on Elections to make sure that the votes counted from there are the true wishes of the voters.

Local Comelec officials, teachers and provincial and municipal officials tell contradicting stories. Some say no elections took place; the ballots were filled up by teachers, under the watchful eyes and guns of armed men, and counted before the election. Others say otherwise, that peaceful elections actually took place. Who's telling the truth?

It is possible that all of them are. Some saw elections taking place; others saw cheating, and they are all truthfully telling what they saw. They were like the blind men who touched different parts of an elephant and then described the animal differently, as like a snake, a tree trunk, a wall, a rope and a spear. They were all telling the truth based on their respective perceptions.

Even assuming that peaceful elections did take place in some parts of Maguindanao, we can also assume that there was cheating in other parts. Therefore, the poll results in the province are not accurate. Determining which votes are authentic and which are not would take a long time, during which time proclamation of the last four senatorial winners would be held up and tension among the competing bets and their supporters would be high.

Isn't the quickest and most practical way of resolving the problem to hold new elections in Maguindanao, since new elections would be held anyway in Lanao del Sur and other parts of Mindanao? If Maguindanao folk really want Team Unity to win, they would vote for its candidates again. Besides, that would prevent any further suspicions and accusations of cheating since the new elections would be closely watched by the Comelec, the candidates and their supporters, the media and even foreign observers. Whatever the results would be would then be accepted by everybody.

Furthermore, it would give the borderline senatorial candidates an opportunity to catch up. They can campaign furiously in the few days left before the new elections. However they finish, they can truthfully say that they did their best.

* * *

So that is the "political machinery" and "command votes" that Team Unity confidently boasted would assure its victory. It was premeditated, malicious, cold-blooded, shameless, imprudent cheating. Perhaps the administration operators were confident because they knew the Comelec is on its side, or at least would look the other way while they did their thing. Besides, weren't they successful before—during the 2004 elections? Let the opposition cry "electoral fraud" and file complaints. The Comelec would proclaim their candidates winners and then would take until the new elections before resolving the complaints.

But they didn't figure on Namfrel, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, Lente, foreign observers and other election watchdogs being so watchful, persistent and faithful to their duties. And they didn't figure on the reality that some people cannot be bought or threatened to keep quiet; that some people, unlike them, have a conscience that won't let them sleep when they see cheating and don't expose it.

* * *

Last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on the opposition to "accept the results of the elections," perhaps confident that the "command votes" (the polite term for "manufactured" or "spurious" votes) would make her candidates win. But now that the Comelec and Namfrel counts show that the opposition senatorial bets are winning 8 to 2, with 2 independents, the administration is singing a different tune. It's time to turn the tables on the GMA administration: Accept the results.

Anyway, the opposition has accepted the results of the local elections. That was expected anyway. The administration always wins in midterm elections because of patronage and opportunism.

Just before Election Day, the administration was accusing the polling firms of having been bought because of predictions of a 6-4-2 finish in favor of the Genuine Opposition. But now both the Comelec and Namfrel counts are confirming the survey results of the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, as well as the exit polls. Not only confirming but doing better (or worse, depending on which side you are) than the predictions. GO is winning 8-2-2 in both the official canvass and the quick count. That is why administration operators are desperately trying to save the day by trotting out its "secret weapon"—the "command votes" in Mindanao and elsewhere.

Bro. Mike Velarde, GMA's spiritual adviser, has told her to accept the results. Stop trying to subvert the people's will. The people want change. Use the remaining three years of the term to restore the credibility of her administration. Leave something good for the history books. Good advice.

After all, Ms President, you can't win them all. You already won earlier fights although you didn't deserve them. You were lucky then. But luck has a way of running out. And yours has.

The new Hospital Detention Law

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

A BRAND-NEW LAW STOPS HOSPITALS from detaining absconding patients. President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed Republic Act 9439, or the Hospital Detention Law, welcomed by human rights activists, but detested of course by the hospitals. For once, GMA has the law on her side and, strangely, economics against her. The law cannot be avoided because the alternatives are simply inhumane, but it cannot be sustained as a stand-alone solution either. It is a no-win situation, but it is the first necessary step that, to be viable, must trigger off larger reforms without which our health care system will go bankrupt.

To start with the basics, foreigners will wonder: Why pass a law detaining hospitals? And how on earth do you detain a building? It will take a lot of explaining by us Filipinos, because the law aims at a mischief that is a no-brainer abroad. The problem simply does not exist for them; it exists mainly for poor countries like us.

And what is that problem? That poor patients, after receiving medical care, simply take off without paying their bills, leaving the hospitals in the lurch. The law is actually about "Non-detention by Hospitals," quite a mouthful yet still a mystery, because detention is typically done by tyrannical states and not by nurturing carers and givers.

It is a non-problem abroad because they have found ways to "actuarialize" or spread the cost of illness and accidents. One is by recognizing that we all have a public interest in ensuring public health, and that therefore the state must foot the bill. The other is to shift the cost to insurance and health maintenance systems sustained by member contributions, this time on the logic that we, mortals all, face the same risks of the uncertain and are better off sharing the risk widely. The lucky don't get to use their coverage, the unlucky get its full benefit—the one rare contract where only the stupid buyer actually hopes to collect on what he's buying.

(Socialist states took Option 1, and did it through the state, and by now have been phased out by history. The Marxists said that the state shall wither away. Well, comrades, it was just the Marxist state that wilted and died, *salamat sa Dios.*)

The Philippines however has taken neither path, and has merely thrown the sick—and the hospitals—to the mercy of the open market. Hospitals therefore had over the years taken desperate measures. They detained patients for non-payment, long after the patient had fully recovered—and in a bizarre twist, when patients died, exercised a lien on the corpse and postponed the funeral. Try filing for habeas corpus on that!

Both the Constitution and global treaties recognize the right to health, and given the test of "progressive achievement," a reversal of this law at this stage in the game will actually place the Philippines in breach of treaty obligations, which applies the test of "availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality" of health care.

But beyond the right-to-health issue, there is actually a distinct "due process" protection to liberty issue. The main sponsor of the bill, Sen. Pia Cayetano (older sister to candidate Alan, now suffering the full brunt of Mike Arroyo's wrath), who chairs the Senate committee on health, lamented: "In the process, [the patients'] bills and expenses continue to pile up, which further prolongs their detention and even puts them at risk of infection as they are forced to stay with sick patients inside the hospital." That bills "continue to pile up" while keeping the debtor unemployable is at the heart of the imprisonment for nonpayment of debt clause in the Bill of Rights.

Without the Cayetano law, the state becomes the hospitals' fellow jail warden. We need the law simply because the status quo—the detention of the healthy with the sick and the unwilling refrigeration of the dead—is irrational. We need this law not just for the sake of the poor. We all actually need it for our own sense of humanity. It is the quality of our mercy that is at stake, and shame on us all that we even required a Hospital Detention Law.

What we need now is to ensure that the implementing rules make sense, and that larger social security institutions are reformed.

To its credit, the law benefits only charity patients and not those in private rooms, in response to the Philippine Hospital Association's fear that the law will be abused by Doña Buding masquerading as Aling Petra.

To its credit, the law says all that it can say on how hospitals will get paid: defaulting patients must write a promise to pay (erroneously called a "promissory note," which will make it a negotiable instrument!), secured by either a mortgage or a guarantor. What more can the law offer, after all?

But the hospitals still look askance. How many patients have actually kept their promise? Only one in 10, and at that rate, the hospitals will go belly up, we push our doctors and nurses to migrate, and in the end, we all suffer. Defaulting patients will have little that may be valuable enough to mortgage, or know too few credit-worthy friends willing to co-sign the promise.

How can we give the hospitals greater assurance that promises will be kept? The legal devices are limited, and it will take reformed coverage through the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to truly actuarialize catastrophic health costs. The Pag-Ibig Fund has admirably shown what contributor-funded programs can do for the right to housing. It behooves the medical establishment to accomplish as much for the right to health.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Controlling the agenda

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS ANnounced it is ready to proclaim by the weekend the top nine winners of the senatorial election even though the results in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where first returns showed a 12-0 sweep for the administration's Team Unity ticket in the key province of Maguindanao, are still under a cloud and open to manipulation.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, under strong public pressure to rush the early completion of the Comelec's official tabulation, made the announcement as (1) special elections are to be held tomorrow in 13 towns of Lanao del Sur, another ARMM province, where the polls had to be rescheduled; and (2) reports continued to flow from citizens' watchdog groups in Mindanao to their Manila headquarters tending to substantiate earlier reports of extensive cheating in Maguindanao, the Lanao provinces and Sulu.

The special elections in the 13 towns involve some 100,000 votes. And more than half of the 28 certificates of canvass that still remain to be canvassed by the National Board of Canvassers come from Mindanao provinces.

According to Abalos, the proclamation of the top nine could go ahead, provided the remaining votes in the areas awaiting canvass would not affect the standing of the first nine. As of Wednesday afternoon, the results stood at 8-2-2, with the charge led by Genuine Opposition candidates. The Comelec has canvassed up to 73 percent of certificates of canvass from 66 provinces and nine cities in Metro Manila.

Even with these still incomplete results, the picture continues to be grim for the administration. The unofficial tabulation of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections as of 7 p.m. on Wednesday shows only two Team Unity candidates (Sen. Eduardo Angara, 7th, and Sen. Joker Arroyo, 9th) in the first nine. The last three slots are being contested by Gregorio Honasan, 10th; Antonio Trillanes, 11th; and Aquilino Pimentel III, 12th.

Struggling to crash into the 12th spot are TU's Miguel Zubiri, Ralph Recto, Michael Defensor and Prospero Pichay.

From the above figures, the odds are overwhelmingly stacked against changing the ratio of the results, unless the administration, with the collusion of the Comelec, foolishly undertakes a massive tampering of the returns in Mindanao and other provinces. This picture underscores the futility of drastically changing the outcome without sparking a civil conflagration, of the magnitude that followed the walkout in February 1986 of computer technicians at the Comelec after the official tabulation wiped out the commanding lead of opposition presidential candidate Corazon Aquino.

Confronted by its apparently inevitable and decisive defeat in the senatorial election, the administration has fallen back on the silly explanation that Maguindanao was maliciously being "singled out" when TU had swept the elections in at least eight provinces. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita sought comfort behind the ruins of the political machine that failed to deliver the vaunted command votes. He said, "How can you fault the people in that area if the other party has no machinery?"

There were no opposition candidates or watchers in the province, Ermita said. "If you do not go there, if you are not seen there, chances are that they might forget to vote for you."

From where things now stand in the tabulations, the country is confronted by two sets of results, each presenting different electoral maps: one comes from the senatorial results and the other from the congressional and local elections.

Assuming that Ermita has by now received returns from the machine's extensive grass-roots networks, not yet fully reported in public tabulations of Comelec and Namfrel, he claims administration candidates have won 73 out of 81 positions for provincial governors, 203 out of 219 congressional seats, and 109 of 119 city mayors. This claim echoed President Macapagal-Arroyo's instant statement after the election, based on early returns: "I believe we will have an even bigger majority in the House and an almost complete sweep of the local executives." This caused her to proclaim that these results represented a vote for "political stability."

Ignoring the opposition's near-sweep of the Senate election, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye tried to shift the focus to the local and congressional election results. He said it was not the Senate election results but those in the local polls that reflected a "resounding vote for political stability" (which) "augurs well for a strong economy."

On the face of the results, two elections on two different levels, with no correspondence with one another, took place on May 14, drawing the electorally bifurcated map of the country: the Senate and the local elections.

Each sent different messages and mandates. This bifurcation emphasized even more sharply the great divide that ruptured the country—between the rural constituency of the President and the mainly urban constituency that was reflected in the Senate election vote.

Thus, the country stands divided, even more than it was during the past two years when their conflict came to a head in the two failed impeachment actions against the President and in street demonstrations demanding her resignation. The last election failed to heal these divisions. On the contrary, the two-level election results have set the stage for the epic showdown between the President and the opposition-dominated Senate for control of national agenda and policy in the next three years.

A useless law?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ISSUES HAVE BECOME SO TANGLED IN THE case involving former Manila congressman Mark Jimenez (real name: Mario Crespo); it has gone from a petition for annulment and charges of domestic violence against Jimenez by his wife Carol Castañeda to a business suit filed by Jimenez against his children by his first wife.

While Jimenez, whose extraordinary access to media has allowed him to refute, point by point, and almost simultaneously, all the charges that Castañeda initially lodged against him, his estranged wife has not been heard from since she was abducted by eight men several days back.

Jimenez, of course, denies that a kidnapping ever took place, claiming he only had Carol confined to a drug rehabilitation facility since, he said, she had been a "drug addict" for many years. What's astounding is that Jimenez was able to have his wife picked up and held as a virtual prisoner despite a court-issued order requiring him to keep a 200-meter distance from her, desist from alleged acts of violence and threats, and refrain from approaching or stalking her, their child or her relatives.

Despite court orders and even a petition for habeas corpus filed by Carol's sister, police and other authorities have astonishingly been unable to enforce the court orders, spring Carol from her involuntary confinement or even arrest Jimenez.

One wonders if the police are really as helpless as they claim, or if they're simply uninterested in doing their job.

* * *

WOMEN legislators, activists and organizations spent more than a decade lobbying for the passage of a law on violence against women, particularly domestic violence.

After much debate and consciousness-raising efforts, the law against Violence against Women and their Children was passed a few years back, but as real-life cases alleging violation of this law have shown, it's difficult to build a body of legal precedence given the ignorance of prosecutors, judges and police, as well as the deliberate twisting of the law by lawyers and the aforementioned officials.

And when those tasked with implementing the law—such as the police—have no compunctions ignoring the law, including duly-issued court orders, then the law not only becomes inutile but farcical as well. The battle to protect and defend women continues.

* * *

MOVING into a new home, remodeling, or looking for some furniture, accessory and art pieces to punch up the current look of your interiors? Then drop by LRI Business Plaza in Reposo, Makati where a "Summer Madness Sale" is ongoing until the end of the month, with items going for discounts of up to 70 percent.

LRI Business Plaza has grouped under one roof furniture and home accessories shops, antiques and collectibles stores, art galleries, and even a spa, cafés and bars.

Mandy Navasero, whose studio can be found at LRI, had scheduled a tour, lunch and massage for me and Sunday Inquirer editor Pennie Azarcon dela Cruz last Monday. I had requested for a late lunch so I could meet my deadline, but as it happened I reached LRI past three that afternoon, and so had time only for a quick bite and a relaxing foot massage and manicure.

This is why my husband and I paid a return visit last Wednesday, and the first thing I did was to buy four large throw-pillows in Diretso, a furniture store that is one of the first establishments one sees upon entering the building, that I had my eye on since my first visit last year. However, we ended up spending much of our time enjoying *merienda* at The Room Upstairs, which is a combination café and home accessories store.

However brief, our window shopping tour turned up a few discoveries. Among them, at NYC Tiglao Rarities, we were drawn initially by a grouping of glass and porcelain ducks near the display window. Since we collect ducks, we ventured into the store, but found the items rather pricey, since they bear trademarks familiar to most collectors of antiques, and vintage collectibles. Owner Nicanor Tiglao, who has lived for decades in the United States, says most of his pieces have been sourced from estate sales and other collectors in the States and Europe.

We also enjoyed browsing through Oriental antiques and furniture at The Courtyard, as well as ethnic wood and bamboo pieces at Silahis Arts and Crafts.

To mark the season, an art show, "One Word 2 Stories" by French artist Fabrice Sergent, will open at Galerie Astra today, while a poetry reading at Ricco Renzo Galleries and Café and a performance by internationally renowned pianist Raul Sunico will be held later this month.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL schools—educational institutions that offer a curriculum tailored to students in foreign countries, such as the British School, or a curriculum that hews to so-called "international" standards—have lately been cropping up in Manila and other urban areas.

But there's a new school that offers not just an international education but an international "Catholic" education.

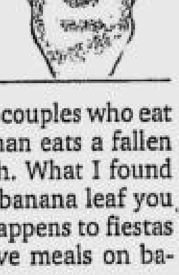
The school is known as the Everest Academy, established by the group Legionaries of Christ in partnership with Regnum Christi, a lay movement in charge of the school's operations.

Guided by the school motto "Teach the Intellect, Educate the Heart, and Form the Character," the school founders hope "to mold future Christ-centered leaders, with an emphasis on social outreach programs and charitable enterprises done in their homeland."

Applications for Grades 1 and 2 are now being accepted at the Everest Academy Manila. For more information, visit www.everestmanila.com, e-mail the school at admissions@everestmanila.com or call 882-5019. You may also visit the campus at 3846 38th Drive North, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Folk beliefs, in this day and age

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

BROWSING THROUGH THE TWO-VOLUME ENcyclopedia of Philippine Folk Beliefs and Customs compiled by Fr. Francisco Demetrio, S.J. made me wonder if similar research is still being undertaken today. Most of the material was gathered in the late 1960s and early 1970s, classified and arranged into themes before these hefty volumes were published in Cagayan de Oro in the last century—that is, 1991. Reading this made me wonder how much of so-called folk beliefs are still retained by urban Filipinos at the dawn of the 21st century.

For example, regarding amulets placed in houses to guard against fire, robbery, bad luck, etc. We still see palm fronds blessed on Palm Sunday adorning gates, doors and windows, but what about TV-antennae type contraptions of bamboo or turkey feathers meant to be placed atop a thatch roof? Old wives and *yayas* spin tales of *aswangs* who prey on unborn babies in the wombs of mothers. We are warned about these creatures with long pointed tongues who prowl at night and seek their prey through bamboo slat floors or thatch roofs. How will an *aswang* cope with high-rise condominiums? What about *aswangs* who feed on cadavers, replacing these with banana trunks disguised as the dear departed loved one; how will they enter the modern, air-conditioned, brightly lit, funeral parlors that come with security guards? These reflections are best left to experts like Michael Tan, but for this column I wanted to share what I read regarding eating.

If you get exhausted from over-eating, do not reach for over-the-counter remedies or fizzy drinks; all you need is a ladle. Get it from the kitchen and apply over the chest and lungs and bring it all the way down to the pit of the stomach for instant relief.

There are a number of beliefs concerning bananas. Most common is that a woman who eats twin bananas will deliver twins (hopefully not conjoined or Siamese twins).

There is a taboo against eating bananas that have fallen from a stalk: married couples who eat such will not live long, if a woman eats a fallen banana she will die at childbirth. What I found new was that if you eat from a banana leaf you will forget your mother! What happens to fiestas and theme restaurants that serve meals on banana leaves?

Dinuguan, an all-time *merienda* favorite, should not be served to young girls because ingesting chicken or pig's blood will induce excessive flow during their menstrual period. Parents who want their children to grow up bright, need not buy infant formula or multi-vitamins nor enroll them in Kumon and other tutorials; rather they should feed the children fish, pig, chicken or any edible brain. I remember our driver trailing along behind my mother in the wet market and quietly whispering to the matadors his wish to buy *bingka ng baboy*. I was too young to suspect he was up to something kinky, but he explained that his young tongue-tied daughter required pig genitals.

Some beliefs we still see at meals: do not clear tables while others are still eating lest they remain unmarried, or worse marry a widower. Eating from broken plates leads to accidents. You must finish everything on your plate or God will punish you. A more fanciful version of this is that all the food you leave on your plate is stored somewhere in another dimension and when you die you will be forced to eat up the accumulation of a lifetime before entering the kingdom of heaven.

Certain foods are not to be eaten by certain people. You must make the sign of the cross before eating crabs. Pregnant women have a lot of rules to follow: they should avoid eating crabs lest their children develop red spots on the body and face; they should avoid eggplant believed to cause beri-beri in both mother and child. After delivery they should still avoid eggplant or it will cause lesions on the child's scalp. Children should avoid fish eggs lest they become dull in class. Eating broiled salted fish on Good Friday causes freckles. Hito or catfish shouldn't be eaten for it is believed these are the spirits of the dead. Eating eggs causes toothache. Eating stale eggs will cause girls to remain unmarried.

There are many taboos on eating unhatched eggs, yet we still love *balut*! And in the home of Gilda Cordero Fernando I was once served a wonderful *lugao* with chicken that had unhatched eggs in them. How's that for birth control?

Spicy food is generally thought to induce *almoranas* or increase the sex drive, but a respondent in Romblon claimed that eating hot or spicy foods after a death in the family will cause more deaths to follow. Sour fruits should be avoided by women with their period. Ginger is best for the voice. Chicken gizzard or *baticulon* should not be taken by expectant mothers lest it result in difficult labor. Chicken gizzard is also taboo for young boys because it will make their sex organs hard to circumcise.

Not all food causes bad luck. Recently on Chinese New Year people have been buying round fruits like oranges and spiky ones like pineapple for luck. Demetrio has two recipes for luck: eating 12 pieces of grapes at the stroke of midnight on a New Year will assure money and luck. Another respondent recommends swallowing three whole grapes for the same effect. Knowing all these is one thing, knowing why the beliefs came about is another inquiry altogether and can help explain why we are the way we are.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Young scientists

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

RIGHTLY SO, SIX YOUNG FILIPINOS MADE IT TO THE INQUIRER's front page yesterday with good, very good, news that provide welcome relief from the depressing news about electoral fraud.

The six won awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) held in the States last week. The ISEF is billed the largest pre-college science fair in the world, this year's event bringing in 1,500 young students (the winners' age range was from 15 to 18) from 40 countries to compete for several awards and prizes provided by private corporations as well as the US government and the European Union.

I'll shortly get to the names of the awardees and the titles of their research presentations, but I wanted first to tackle the significance of these science fairs and Filipinos making it to the finals.

First, the winners were all from public schools, which tells us the government educational system can still be centers of excellence. The winners came from the Philippine Science High School system as well as from two national high schools, both in the Visayas. The inclusion of national high schools is especially encouraging, but not surprising. Teaching at the University of the Philippines, I can vouch that some of our best students, and faculty members, are products of these national high schools.

Second, this ISEF reminds us of the importance of science fairs. I know that we have local fairs as well but rarely get to read about them, and the presentations. I can imagine the excitement of our scholars when they make it to the fairs. These fairs are the equivalent of international science conferences, but I suspect they're more exciting because the adult scientists often end up reading the most boring papers while the science fairs reflect the innovation and imagination that young student scientists have. I visited the ISEF website and was fascinated by the titles of the papers presented, from a Thai student's investigation of the mechanism of the Mimosa leaf's closure (that's the *makahiya* plant) to a Saudi Arabian student's "Smart Shoe for Blind People" and a Mexican's presentation with this kilometric title: "Psycho-social effects caused by parental absence on children 7-11 years old with solution by means of exercises that stimulate dialogue." The Filipinos' presentations were just as intriguing, as I will explain in a while.

Intel, idol

Third point, the science fairs are an excellent opportunity for corporations to channel some of their philanthropy to young people. I know that Intel has been a major sponsor for some years now, both for our local scholars as well as for the international event and I appreciate how they've been doing this low-profile, but I hope too they can challenge other corporations to follow suit. The US corporations know very well that the science fairs allow them to identify budding scientists, people who might even become part of their staff later on.

The sponsors of ISEF were quite diverse, with various US government agencies getting into the act. Even the Department of Homeland Security offered awards for research that would "prevent and deter terrorist attacks." The European Union offered travel grants to another science fair in Spain. The most innovative prizes were from the Lincoln laboratory of MIT: naming minor planets after the grand prize winners! Maybe the Philippine government can offer to name islands after our young winners.

Which takes me to my fourth point, more than having islands named after them, our scholars deserve more coverage by our mass media. We need more of these role models for young people, a counterpoint to the silly American Idol-genre of "heroes." I've nothing, certainly, against singing and dancing; in fact, I've proudly written about how UP and Xavier (my high school alma mater) won in national street-dance competitions. But we do need to be much more appreciative of our young scientists. It's important for young Filipinos to see them, and to hear them talk not just about their science achievements but also about their families, their day-to-day interests. I saw a photograph of this year's Filipino winners in another daily newspaper and I can say they look like your teenager next door.

Filipino winners

I'm going to get to the Filipino winners but before that, congratulations are also in order for the other Filipino students who did qualify to go to ISEF, but didn't win awards. The fact that they made it to the fair is itself an honor.

Now to the winners. Note that I'm going to be paraphrasing some of the very long titles. I have not seen their presentations so I'm basing my comments on the titles of the papers alone, which intrigued me because they reflect the interests of our young scientists, and what we might see in the future if we don't lose them to brain drain.

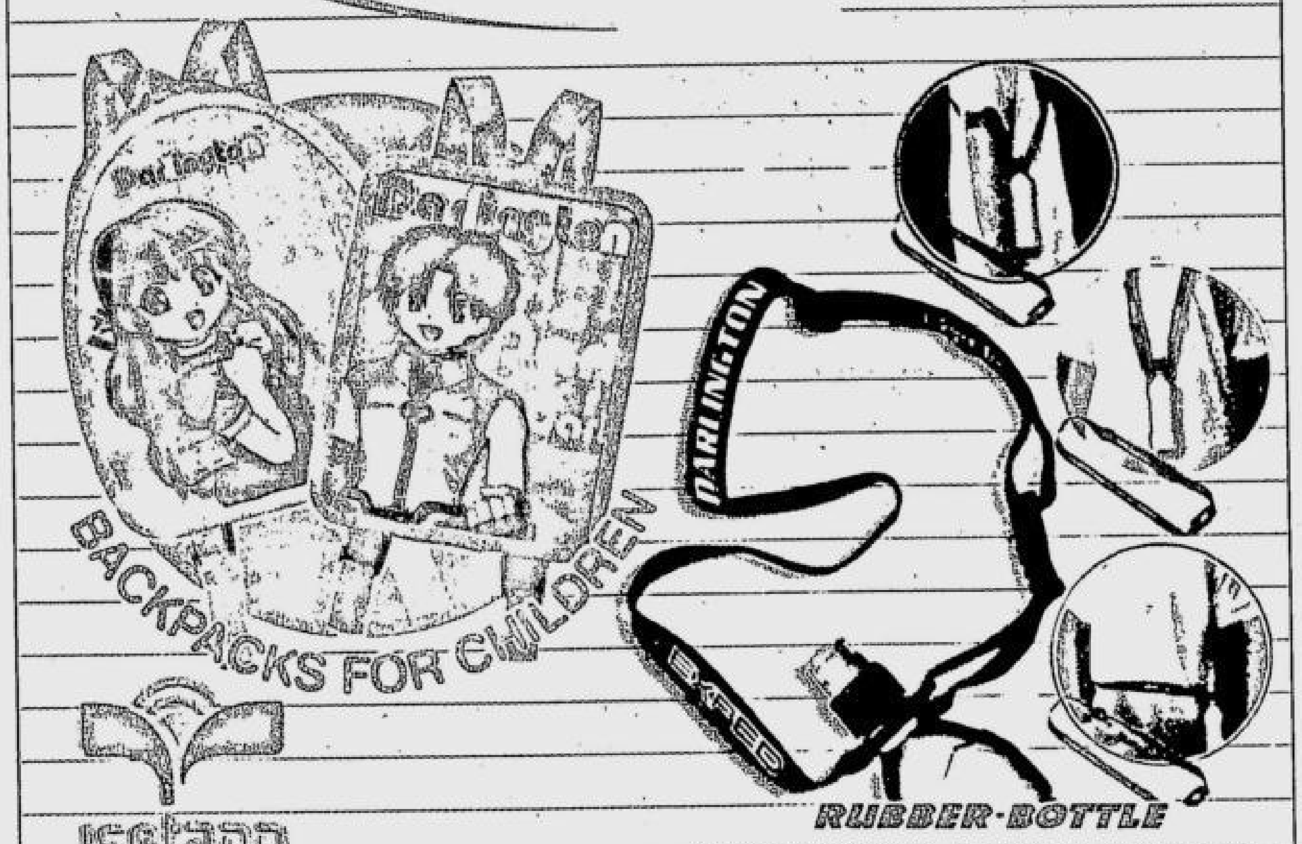
Most striking was how three of the presentations focused on disease control or management, one for plants and two for humans. Luiji Suarez won an award from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance-Lemelson Foundation for his research on the potential of marine bioluminescent bacteria to fight two major rice diseases. Suarez is from the Doña Hortencia Salas Benedicto National High School in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.

A team from the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City—Ivy Ventura, Janine Santiago and Mara Villaverde—won a team project award for their research into fluorescent proteins from sea slugs. These proteins have potential for the detection of tumors.

Melvyn Barroa of the Capiz National High School won in the microbiology division, looking into how fish mucus, which protects the fish, might be used for human health as well, both as an antimicrobial and for immune mechanisms. Barroa was said to have turned down an offer from a German institute that wanted to buy his research. He didn't want to sell the research since he wasn't sure if the Philippines would benefit. This young nationalist scientist will be taking political science at the Ateneo de Manila.

Finally, we get to Hester Mana Umayam from the Philippine Science High School-Cagayan Valley, who won an award in the Behavioral and Social Sciences division for looking into "ethnomathematics in the geometric patterns" of Kalinga weaving. Being an anthropologist, I was most thrilled by this paper's title. Ethnomathematics, put simply, looks at indigenous math systems. Weaving provides one such example—a good weaver has to be able to figure out weaving designs in her head and knowing which types and colors of fibers to use next. That requires algebra and geometry of a different sort. Umayam apparently also looked at how the weaving reflected class and Kalinga culture.

From luminescent tumor markers to the geometry of weaving, our young Filipino scientists did us proud. Here's to hoping that in the years ahead, we do see and hear more of their achievements, as well as those of other young scientists who still have the curiosity and the drive to explore the world around us.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Who, really, is Ben Abalos?

FIRST, LET ME CONGRATULATE THE INQUIRER for taking a no-nonsense stand on the obviously partisan actions, decisions, pronouncements and posturings of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

From the very beginning, Abalos has always been unfit to be Comelec chair because he is not truly independent; he "belongs" to a political party (Lakas) and he is the head of a political dynasty in the small town of Mandaluyong where he has two sons and a brother deeply involved in politics.

How did he ever become Comelec chair in the first place? Whoever appointed him insulted the Filipino people for putting him in such a sensitive post. In my opinion, Abalos' only other credential (aside from having been a judge) is the kind of loyalty lapdogs are famous for. I wonder if the INQUIRER can inform the public who Benjamin Abalos really is. What is his background, family, profession, education, political affiliations, extra-marital activities, religion, etc. Then the public would know who it is dealing with. I guess the public has the right to know who Abalos really is.

Is it true that President Macapagal-Arroyo is thinking of appointing Abalos to the Supreme Court (as a reward)? Isn't that adding insult to injury?

One columnist said, "*Bastusan na.*" The question is: What are we going to do about it?

I suggest that people be told exactly who this man is, then ask them to accept or reject him. Shame him till he resigns. Bring the issues to his family's living room. Ask his family to make him resign. Are we so helpless?

There must be something we can do to get rid of people like him.

—JOHN SALAMAT,
rplinks316@yahoo.com

English as medium will work better this time

GENERALLY, MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING most of our educators favor restoring English as the medium of instruction in schools. However, there are two schools of thought about its implementation. One bats for the use of Filipino and the local language in the first three years, side by side with English. The other is for the use of English from Day One, without the aid of Filipino and the local tongue.

I believe that the use of Filipino and the local language will water down instructions in English and slow down the whole process of learning English. The result will not differ from the present situation where students have only a sputtering knowledge of English. This is a deviation from the objective of making our students English-literate so that they can use English (the universal language) and easily assimilate lessons in science, technology and communication.

I am 82 years old and a product of the educational system established by the American government in the Philippines in the early 1900s, which mandated that English be used as the sole medium of instruction in all schools in the country.

I enrolled in Grade 1 in Ilagan, Isabela. From the first day in school up to fourth-year high school, English was uncompromisingly used as the sole medium of instruction. Filipino (a.k.a. Tagalog) or the local language never served as a crutch for our teachers in bailing them out of language difficulties and communication problems. We thought, read, wrote and spoke in English like our counterparts in English-speaking countries overseas.

In 1940, Grade 7 was taken out of the elementary school curriculum because of financial constraints. Subsequently, English lost its dominant role because Filipino was widely used as the medium. The well-written and well-thought-out English textbooks were replaced by inferior Tagalog reading materials containing gross errors in grammar and fact. The Grade 1 curriculum was crowded by the premature inclusion of subjects earlier intended for the higher grades. The teachers, products of the same defective educational system, served as mentors. School administrators and faculty members lacked the dedication to educate. They were involved in irregular practices instead of serving as good examples to the students. All these and many more contributed to the deterioration of our educational system.

Our dismal showing in international tests in mathematics and science made us take a serious look at our educational system. Now, the restoration of English as the medium of instruction appears to be the chief ingredient in the reforms. The English-only policy worked in our time. It will work even better this time. The advances achieved in communications will guarantee the success.

—APOLONIO G. RAMOS,
42 Mindanao St.,
Filipinas Village, Marikina City 1805

No, family planning budget not a GMA initiative

THIS IS IN REACTION TO SEN. RALPH RECTO's statement on the P150 million allocated for artificial family planning. (INQUIRER, 4/18/07)

While we welcome Recto's recognition of the importance of providing funds for all methods of family planning—natural and artificial—we would like to clarify that, sadly, the P150-million additional budget for artificial methods was allocated by the Arroyo administration not out of conviction and willingness. Rather, this was the product of the unrelenting efforts and vigilance of reproductive health advocates from civil society and PLCPD members in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said, time and again, that her administration is not going to spend a single centavo for the purchase of contraceptives. Consequently, year after year, family planning commodities have not been included as a line item in the health department's budget proposal to Congress. Thus, family planning funds have been spent on information programs—which now exclusively tackle natural family planning in light of the Arroyo administration's natural family planning-only policy. This, despite Pulse Asia surveys showing that nine out of 10 Filipinos want the government to allocate funding for artificial methods (2004 and 2007 survey findings). This, despite the fact that three out of five users of modern contraceptives rely on the public sector (i.e., government hospitals, health centers) for their supply (NSO, 2005).

It is only this year that a provision specifically stating "utilization of the fund for the purchase of reproductive health commodities" was included in the budget.

The additional P150 million inserted by Congress in the general appropriations is indeed laudable. And credit for this rightfully goes to the reproductive health champions in and outside the legislature.

The challenge now for Recto and other legislators and advocates is to ensure that this appropriation is realized. This budget is meant to enable cash-strapped LGUs to purchase the much-needed reproductive health commodities. We must all keep watch and see to it that this allocation serves its intended purpose.

—RAMON D. SAN PASCUAL,
executive director, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc., Rm. 611 Northwing Bldg.,
House of Representatives,
Batasan Complex, Quezon City

Did the Kapampangans choose wisely?

GIVEN THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVernment, I cannot blame the Kapampangans for electing a priest as their governor. But is he really the answer to their problems? That remains to be seen. We don't have to go far down in history to remind ourselves of what happened to our nation's affairs of the state when an *artista* was elected.

Think of what former President Joseph Estrada did to our country. Are we repeating the same mistake? Catholic Philippines may not welcome my skepticism, but must I be blamed for it?

I, too, am hoping for the best for our country. But what will a Catholic priest do about our population problem? Will he be tolerant with our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters? What will be his stand relative to wives being abused by their husbands? What about those "pillars of society" who finance illegal businesses and make large donations to Church projects? These are simple questions from an ordinary Filipino who is hoping for the best for our country.

How I wish the Kapampangans had asked themselves these questions before casting their votes.

—ADELO ESCANO,
adie_scano@yahoo.co.uk

Missing attributions a disservice to scholarship

TINA G. SANTOS' ARTICLE, "TEACHING ABCs the alibata way" (INQUIRER, 5/13/07) was quite interesting and mostly accurate. I applaud the efforts of Raymond Cosare to introduce this unique piece of Filipino culture to younger generations.

I would like to point out, however, that many of the quotations attributed to Cosare were lifted word-for-word, or very thinly paraphrased, from articles that I wrote and posted on the Internet since 1999 and even earlier in Canadian print publications. The source of these statements was not cited in the article.

To verify my claims, please visit http://www.mts.net/~pmorrow/bayeng1.htm and other linked pages.

I suspect that parts of the interview with Cosare were conducted through e-mail, otherwise Cosare would have had to memorize large parts of my article in order to repeat them so precisely in a face-to-face interview.

Two obvious clues that parts of my article were copy-pasted are the words *baybáy* and *kudlít*, which are accented just as they are in my article. Did Cosare specifically instruct Santos to place these accent marks or is it a practice of the INQUIRER to place accent marks on Tagalog words?

I am aware of the INQUIRER's well-deserved reputation for journalistic excellence and credibility. It is not my intention to publicly accuse or embarrass Santos or the INQUIRER. I do not even want to embarrass Cosare because the service he is doing for Filipino culture is extremely valuable. But he has done me a disservice by taking my words and ideas and presenting them as his own. As a professor, Cosare should know better.

—PAUL MORROW,
The Pilipino Express News Magazine,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

I wish to reiterate that Raymond Cosare was my source for the article and I wrote it based on my interview with him. Cosare did mention the name of Morrow as among those who have been showing great interest in "baybayin." I did not, however, check out the latter's website or any material he wrote since I was confident that Cosare had already provided all the information I needed for my article.

I relied on the integrity of Cosare who I believe is an expert on the subject. He has been studying and teaching baybayin for several years now. I believe Cosare only has good intentions of keeping baybayin (which, according to Morrow, "is a unique piece of Filipino culture") alive.

Nevertheless, after checking out Morrow's website now, I realized I should have also given him proper attribution in my article. My apologies.

—TINA G. SANTOS,
Inquirer reporter

RP sees more loans from Japan

By Leah P. Makabenta

TOKYO—WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S fiscal position much improved, the Philippines is looking into availing of loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the implementation agency of Japan's official development assistance (ODA).

President Macapagal-Arroyo told JBIC governor Kyosuke Shinozawa, who called on her yesterday, that the Philippines has been slow in availing of the JBIC facility early in her presidency because it was saddled with a huge budget deficit and a high debt.

But now, with its lowest budget deficit in eight years and a declining debt to GDP ratio, the Philippines is looking at taking out some loans for as long as they conform to development priorities, she said.

The JBIC said it would continue to support the country's priority projects and was helping finance two recent deals obtained by Japanese companies in the Philippines.

In the first, Japanese trading giant Marubeni Corp. and Tokyo Electric Power Co., Japan's largest power company, teamed up to buy out the power assets of the United-States-based Mirant in the Philippines for $3.42 billion, the biggest acquisition to date in the country.

Mirant is the Philippines' biggest power producer with power-generating assets of 2,203 megawatts.

Selling mission

Ms Arroyo is here on an aggressive selling mission to Japanese investors, bringing the message that the Philippine economy has finally broken loose of its lethargy.

"Our strategy for the Philippines is to improve and strengthen global competitiveness, that's why we emphasize investment in physical infrastructure, in human capital and also in the efficient access to financing," she said.

She said the Philippines was interested in Japanese investors to come into the power, mining and information technology sectors.

The other major deal that JBIC said it was supporting was Sumitomo Metal Mining's $500 million expansion of its nickel mine in Surigao del Norte. The company's president, Koichi Fukushima, called on the President yesterday.

Possible investors

In other projects announced yesterday, Aizawa Securities is tying up with ATR KimEng Capital Partners to create what will amount to a $100-billion Philippine Fund to provide a vehicle for Japanese interested in investing in the Philippine stock market and other short-term instruments.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said there were "indications of interest" from Nomura Securities to participate in the privatization of state assets in the San Miguel Corp., the country's largest company, and the Manila Electric Co., the biggest power distributor.

Ms Arroyo is expected to be back today in Manila.

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GMA: Stalled Doha talks drive ...

From page A1

to go full speed ahead in the Philippines and Asean to strengthen our economic ties, regardless of what Doha does or does not do," she said.

Ms Arroyo, the chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' revolving leadership this year, was the keynote speaker at the forum that gathers the region's leaders to discuss their vision of an emerging East Asian community.

"We believe that trade is a catalyst to progress and as the president of the Philippines and chair of Asean I have been aggressive in seeking multilateral and bilateral trade relationships," she said.

Free trade

As a result, Asean has eagerly moved forward with free trade negotiations and free trade agreements (FTAs) with China, South Korea, the European Union and Japan.

"These agreements demonstrate our collective voice in Asean. Because the future will belong to those nations that seek common ground to resolve common problems," Ms Arroyo said.

Vital alliances must be forged to keep the world stable so an East Asian community is a step in the right direction, she said.

To many, there is already a de facto East Asian integration in the community composed of the 10-nation Asean—Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines—and Northeast Asia (Japan, China and South Korea), India, Australia and New Zealand.

Integration

All of these are Asean's partners in its dialogue process, so Ms Arroyo can rightly claim that Asean is the driver of East Asian integration.

"We have been pushing it in the Asean summits and so it is the driver of this concept. But also because Asean is geographically located at the center of East Asia," she said.

Momentum for an East Asian integration has been building for some time. But being a collection of countries divided by culture and political differences, not until intra-regional trade and investment had expanded which promoted interdependence could the idea of a community emerge.

Asian crisis

The Asian currency crisis in 1997 was an additional impetus.

According to Toshihiro Nikai, MP and chair of the Diet affairs committee of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, Asean might be the driver or the core of East Asian integration but the initiative came from Japan.

During the 1990s when the Japanese economy experienced a long period of stagnation, other East Asian countries also suffered.

"We were not able to respond to their expectations. We also faced a declining population ... and many people feared that the Japanese economy would continue to be mired in stagnation," said Nikai, who was an official at the Ministry of Trade and Industry at the time.

Growth strategy

The Japanese had to map out a growth strategy to arrest the decline. They realized they had to link themselves to the dynamism of the Asian economies.

"Japan needed to be more deeply engaged with East Asia whose economies have been the fastest growing since the 1990s. It would like to contribute to East Asian economic growth and would like to promote economic integration," Nikai said.

Asean has taken the lead in establishing partnerships in promoting closer ties among these countries.

"The idea is to underpin this growing integration with institutions. The economies have been growing very rapidly, as is the division of labor. In other words, economic partnership has been growing ahead of other aspects of relations in East Asia," said Nikai.

Like European Union

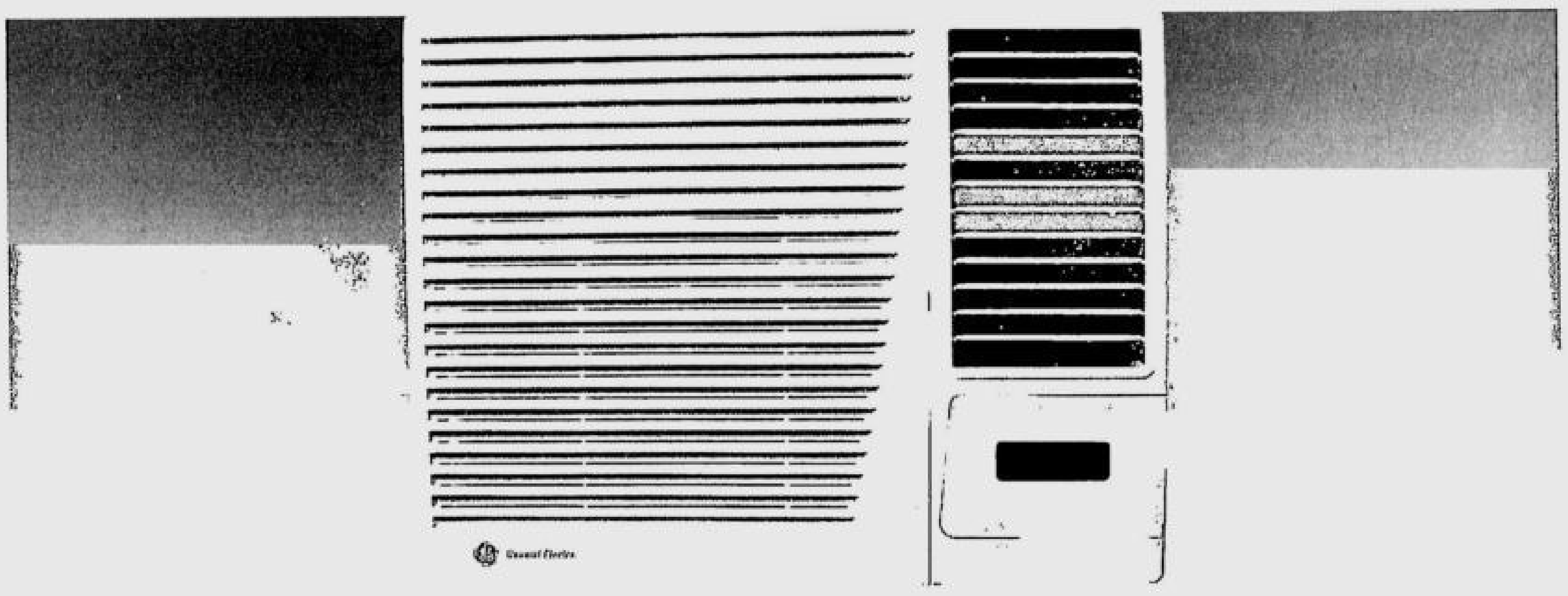
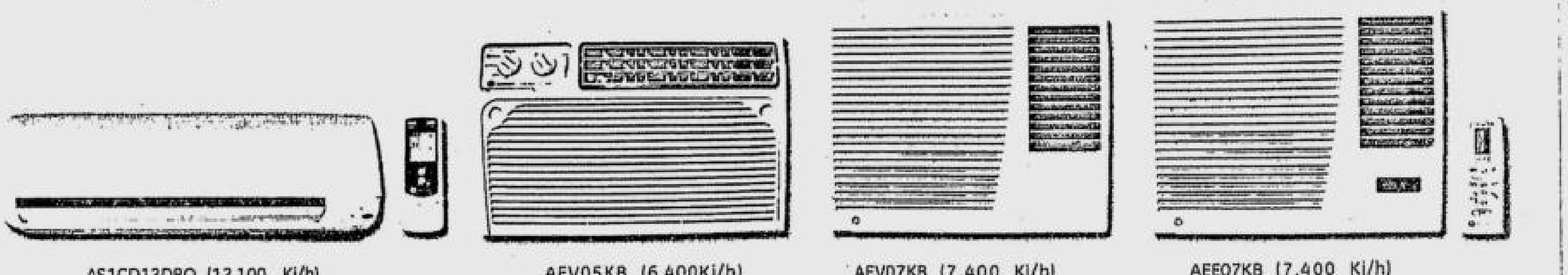
For instance, Japan is proposing to bundle together these FTAs into a comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

"If this can be realized in East Asia, the production and manufacturing network will become even more efficient and the industrial competitiveness of the region will be strengthened," said Nikai.

In 2001, an expert panel called the East Asia Vision Group, urged East Asia to take steps to become a true regional community much like the European Union.

In December 2005, Malaysia hosted the first inaugural meeting of the East Asia summit, a top-level discussion among heads of state and governments of the 16 countries—Asean and its dialogue partners, Asean + 3 (Japan, China and South Korea) and India, Australia and New Zealand.

The second East Asian summit was hosted by the Philippines last December.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AS1CD16DBO (16,100 Kj/h)
AS1CD22DBO (22,300 Kj/h)

Manual Control
AEV05KB (6,400Kj/h)
AEV07KB (7,400 Kj/h)
AEV09KB (9,500 Kj/h)
AEV12KB (13,000 Kj/h)
AEV18KB (18,300 Kj/h)
AEV24KB (23,300 Kj/h)

Electronic Control
AEE07KB (7,400 Kj/h)
AEE09KB (9,500 Kj/h)
AEE12KB (13,000 Kj/h)
AEE18KB (18,300 Kj/h)
AEE24KB (23,300 Kj/h)

FREE installation nationwide for split-type airconditioners (for the first 10 ft. copper tubing).
Photos may vary from actual units. General Electric has a policy of continuous improvement of its products and reserves the right to change materials and specifications without prior notice.

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Abalos takes back proclamation plan

From page A1

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ELEKSYON 2007

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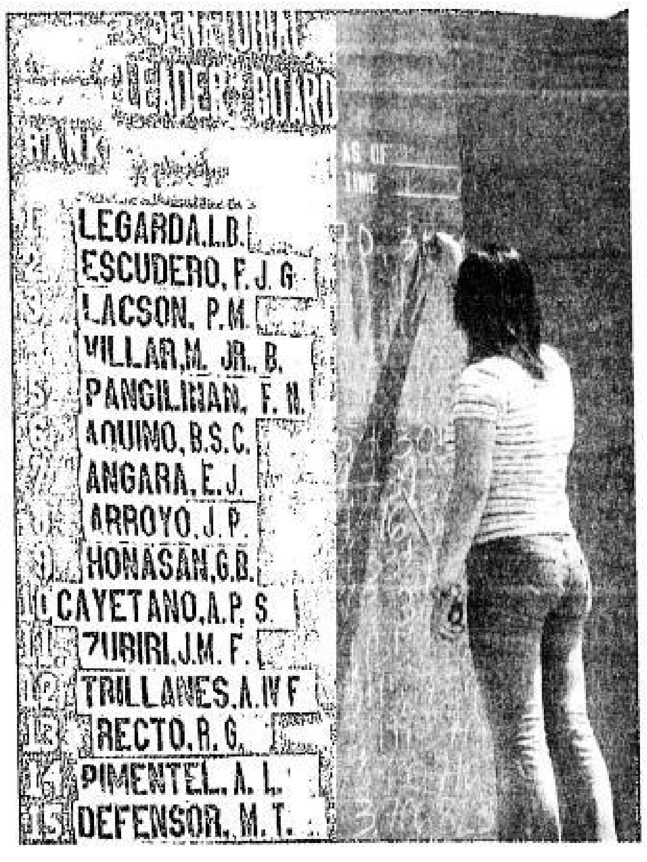
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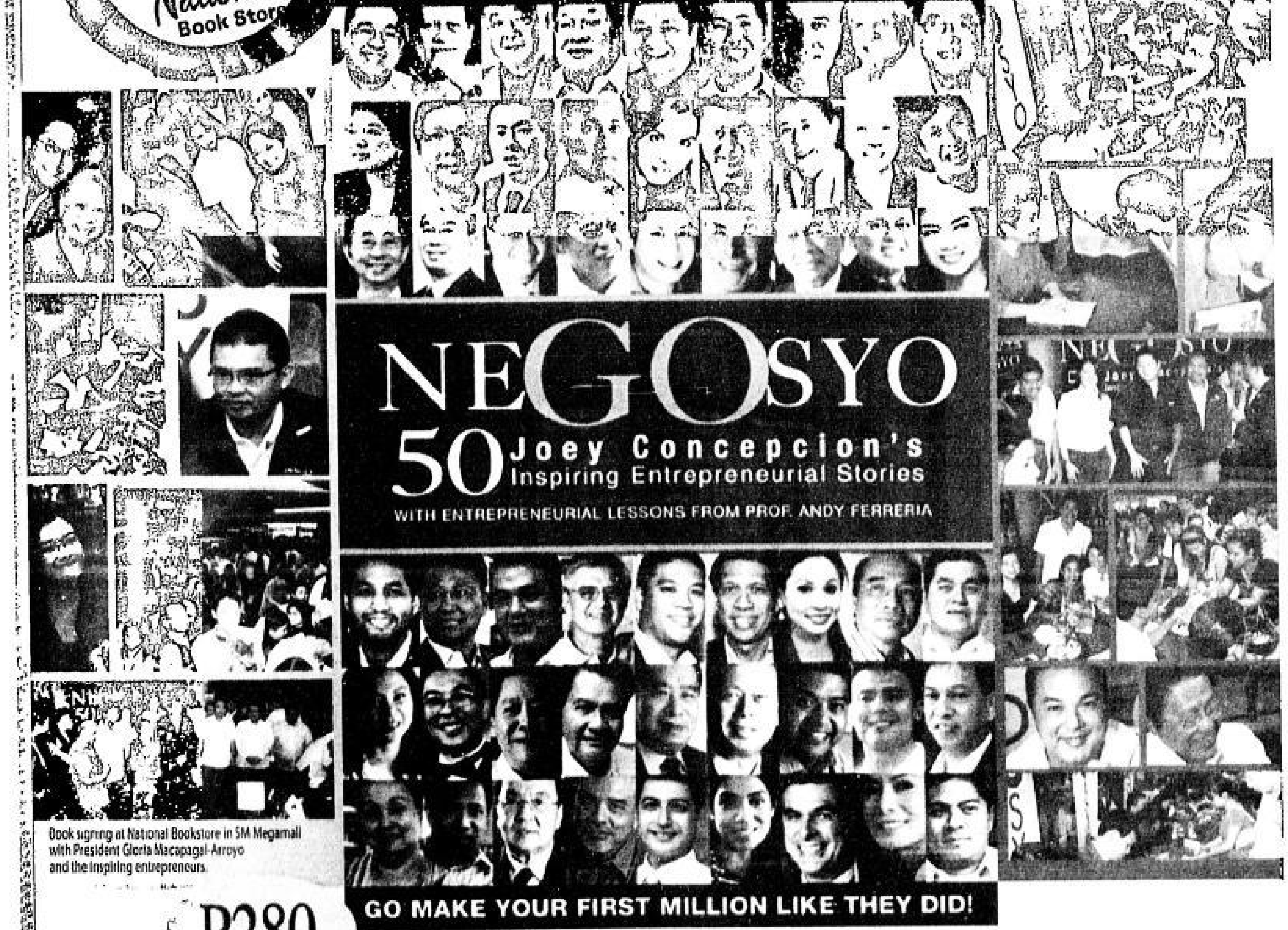
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21st Mid-Biennial Conference
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Host District: Western Mindanao

We are Soroptimists, an international organization of business and professional women who help other women and girls live their dreams.

Live Your Dream

MALACAÑAN PALACE MANILA

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region (SIPR) as you hold your 21st Mid-Biennial Conference.

Soroptimist International has preceded all other Filipino women's clubs in the country in pursuing projects that enhance the status of women. You are lauded for your tireless efforts to promote the welfare and development of the women sector, and for your advocacy of women's rights. Indeed, empowered women are and will always be valuable contributors to nation-building.

Your theme, **"Nurturing Dreams, Building Soroptimist Capabilities,"** shows your commitment and dynamism to strengthen the capabilities of your organization so that you can help more of your members and beneficiaries. With so much to be done, I urge you to broaden support for our vulnerable sectors, to undertake more activities that will further improve the lives of the Filipino women, and to promote national stability and development.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

We simplify and strengthen so that we achieve the substantial: improve the lives of women and girls in our communities. This was my guiding principle at the start of my term.

Internally, Soroptimists streamlined to pursue excellence along the Renaissance strategic outcomes for Program, Membership, Public Awareness, and Fundraising; hence, overall excellence in club performance is now being measured against these parameters.

Externally, the Live Your Dream (LYD) campaign is beginning to drum up for us a singular public awareness activity that would brand us effectively. While timed with the International Women's Day celebration and the Women's Opportunity Awards (WOA), the LYD campaign is also a call to rethink how Soroptimist sells itself as a whole, not only through WOA but also the VRA, MADFWA, and our own club projects. The main objective is to make potential members, donors, media, and the general public associate us with one powerful idea: enabling women and girls to live their dreams.

Fellow Soroptimists, various communication tools are now in place for use: the SIPR website, *www.soroptimistphilippines.org*, the Optima magazine, the Soroptimist Info-pak, soon to be released members' directory, and the new Soroptimist Orientation and Leadership Training (SOLT) in compact disc form. Most importantly, seed money has already been successfully raised through the First Soroptimist Cup and Golf Fellowship for the upgrading of SIPR headquarters. I trust that these and other capability-building initiatives spark even more innovative and reflective ways to enable us all to live our dreams.

Pride and happiness reign in our hearts as we enjoy each other's company! Mabuhay tayong lahat! Mabuhay ang Soroptimist!

LRVillarica
LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
SIPR Governor

GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND LOYALTY

The Most Outstanding Club, Most Outstanding Renaissance Club, Ten Outstanding Clubs, Most Promising Club, and Best in Fundraising, Membership, Program, and Public Awareness will receive the Governor's Awards for Excellence for 2006-2007. A total of 153 Soroptimists who have retained membership for 25 years or more shall be honored for the first time with Loyalty Awards.

OFFICERS' TRAINING SCHOOL: LESSONS FROM A SLED DOG RACE

Does leadership frighten you? Do you need fresh inspiration to get your team of fellow-volunteers motivated? The Officers Training School (OTS) offers for the first time, a workshop module based on the Alaska Iditarod Sled Dog Race, one of the largest events facilitated by multiple teams of volunteers called, "Leaders, Get Behind Your Team for Greater Success," to be facilitated by SIA Northwest Region Fundraising Chairperson Suzanne Sullivan on May 24, 2007.

Participants to this new feature of the OTS will learn key leadership skills in addition to getting grounded on the duties and responsibilities of SIPR club officers, SIPR'S policies, by-laws, and procedures. The OTS harnesses club officers' individual capabilities and interests in district/club administration. Attendance by in-coming officers is a must; registration and materials are free of charge.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to greet every Soroptimist lending her presence at this 21st Mid-Biennial Conference. The lure of Zamboanga City is fatal. I'm sure you have heard the song that goes "Don't you go, don't you go too far Zamboanga, for you might forget your darling far away....." This charming venue is memorable for me. I was here when Philanthropist and Soroptimist Gregoria B. Santos donated a piece of property to house women who were exploited, abused, battered, and assaulted. I donated towards the comfort room of this building. I look forward to seeing their Women's Center in action.

This is a very exciting time for SIA. This past March 8th we launched our beautiful new Live Your Dream Website, **www.liveyourdreamcampaign.org**. The campaign and website were developed to underscore our mission of improving the lives of women and girls by consolidating all our efforts in one, big, inspirational package. Although the purpose of the site itself is to build a fun and engaging online community with others who support our mission, the greater goal is to draw attention to the plight of the world's women by sharing their personal stories and shedding light on some of the obstacles and challenges that prevent women from reaching their goals. We hope this campaign will help us build the awareness we so critically need to sustain our organization and address the needs of the women and girls we seek to serve.

I heard a quote recently that said, *"Too many women in too many countries speak the same language; silence."* This is something that we, as Soroptimists, are striving to change: to give women and girls a voice and give them the ability to live out their dreams whatever they may be. When we speak of women living their dreams, for some that might mean going back to school or traveling the world, but for many women, the dream is much more fundamental. We, as an organization, make their dreams our own and endeavor to support them through projects such as the Women's Opportunity Award and other Soroptimist programs. Our Dream here at SIA is to be successful in our mission to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world, and with your time and effort we will achieve that.

TBChoa
TERESITA B. CHOA
SIA President

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS - AWARDS PROGRAMS

Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region (SIPR), an affiliate of the Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), participates in three award programs initiated by SIA - the Women's Opportunity Award, the Violet Richardson Award, and the Making a Difference for Women Award. The selection of awardees begins at the local club level, proceeds to the Region level, and ends at the SIA federation level. The prestigious annual awards carried out by Soroptimist clubs in 19 countries disburse more than $800,000 at various levels of SIA.

The Women's Opportunity Awards (WOA) program, Soroptimist's major service project, gives women the resources they need to improve their education, skills, and employment prospects. Many Women's Opportunity Award recipients have overcome enormous obstacles in their quest for a better life, including poverty, domestic violence, and drug and alcohol abuse. It is open to women who provide the primary financial support for their families and are enrolled or have been accepted to a vocational/skills training program or an undergraduate degree program.

2006-2007 SIPR WOA Honoree: Emilia F. Salalac (SI Navotas' nominee) is a 23-year old sales clerk at a Navotas Grocery who desires to continue her computer science course at the City College of Manila and keep her family together. The young mother of three, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and wife battering says her children inspire her to win her life's battles. Herself left in the care of a relative at age five due to poverty, Emilia has had to leave her youngest daughter to a relative for the same reason. She dreams of a better future for her children as she strives from day-to-day with faith that "God is always there in my simple needs."

The Violet Richardson Award (VRA) is a recognition program for young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools, named in honor of the president of the first Soroptimist club, Violet Richardson. This award is based solely on the applicant's volunteer work; a demonstrated commitment to making the world a better place.

2006-2007 SIPR VRA Honoree: Lara Angela G. Larraquel (SI Eastwood's nominee) a recent graduate of Mayamot National High School, is a budding entrepreneur and leader-trainor. She holds leadership positions in various volunteer service organizations. After an excellent performance at the "Go Negosyo Teen Edition" Program conducted by the Department of Trade and Industries and the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, Lara borrowed money from the school, which she then used to set up a student-run mini-canteen with the help of fellow students--successfully earning a four-fold profit. She also gives a tutoring program for slow readers in their school, and leads their community's clean-up and recycling drives as Secretary of Sanguniaang Kabataan.

The Making a Difference for Women (MADF) Award acknowledges women who, through their personal or professional activities, are working to improve the lives of women and girls. MADF also provides an opportunity for Soroptimist clubs to thank and honor women who have helped, inspired, and encouraged other women.

2006-2007 SIPR MADF Award Honoree: Julia Dugayen-Senga (SI Eastwood's nominee) an indigenous Tinggian, became the youngest Philippine Mayor at age 24, and the first woman Mayor of the Municipality of Lacub, Abra. Knowing firsthand the grim situation of tribal women, she began a series of endeavors to make public utilities and services accessible to the hinterlands and make use of the indigenous folks' cultural heritage to improve their lives. She founded the Mampia-an Foundation to uplift the socio-economic status of indigenous women; organizing them for "weaving for a living", a skills training project using traditional handloom; and organizing girls and out-of-school youth for the "School of the Living Tradition" which makes music using bamboo instruments.

REGION OFFICERS 2006 - 2008

Seated (L-R): *Treasurer* Thelma T. Ortiz, *Region Secretary* Ma. Paloma B. Papa, *Governor* Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, *Federation Director* Dulce I. Gozon, & *Asst. Treasurer* Evangeline M. Santiago

Standing (L-R): *District Director* Rebecca T. Kalaw, *District Director* Benita O. Santos, *District Director* Rosalinda R. Grande, *District Director* Refelina T. Catalan, *District Director* Natividad M. Villano, *Auditor* Patrocinio M. Ayson, & *District Director* Eloisa R. Narciso.

Not in photo: *District Director* Josefina C. Francisco

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Governor-Elect

Myra Paz V. Abubakar
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Margarita B. Vitug
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Carmen T. Ang
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Vieminda V. Siapno
District Director

Victoria R. Franco
District Director

Remedios Jacinto
District Director

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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SIA President
Rosemarie A. Burton
SIA Fund Development Council Member

Suzanne Sullivan
SIA Northwest Region Fundraising Chair
Margarita C. Holmes
Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist

Mikaela Irene D. Fudolig
U.P. Diliman, 2007 B.S. Physics, Summa Cum Laude
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Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/regions

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VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

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Rebels as poll goons, hired guns bared

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—WARRING LEADERS OF A COMmunist guerrilla faction started spitting out each other's dirt, removing the veil that kept secret the guerrillas' role as goons for politicians in the May 14 elections and as assassins for targets who included defeated Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez.

The Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPMP) and its military arm, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-ABB) are headed for a split as their leaders trade accusations.

The group was set up in 1998 by guerrilla leaders who broke off from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army.

The war began when RPMP chair Nilo de la Cruz announced that his group was stripping Stephen Paduano, popularly known by his alias Carapali Lualhati; Veronica Tabara and Ariel Sabandar of their positions in the communist faction.

De la Cruz also said the three leaders were being expelled.

Paduano, Tabara and Sabandar allowed themselves to be used as goons of politicians before and during the elections, he said. He did not identify the politicians.

De la Cruz said Tabara was removed as secretary of the RPMP because of "finance opportunism involving party funds and peace project-related funds."

Sabandar, said De la Cruz, was expelled for corruption and sowing intrigues within the party.

Paduano, Tabara and Sabandar were also removed as members of the 19-man RPMP central committee, said De la Cruz.

But Paduano said De la Cruz had no authority to expel him, Tabara and Sabandar.

He said De la Cruz made the expulsions public to preempt disciplinary actions that the groups were going to take against him.

In a phone interview, Paduano said De la Cruz and his men had worked as assassins for various missions in Luzon that included the plot to kill Batangas Governor Sanchez.

Sanchez suffered serious burns when an explosion tore through the Hummer he rode in on his way out of the Batangas provincial capitol on June 1 last year. Two of his bodyguards and a driver were killed.

De la Cruz said he made his group's internal problems public because it was the only way to make the people aware of alleged atrocities committed by Paduano and his group "that tended to suppress the true will of the people in the last elections."

Miguel Guevarra, RPA-ABB spokesperson, said in a statement that the RPMP found Paduano, Tabara and Sabandar guilty of "crimes against the people of Negros Island."

They were accused of "terrorizing innocent and peace-loving folks in many towns at the height of the election period."

The three, said Guevarra, were expelled after eight months of investigation found them to have engaged in mercenary acts and "gangsterism."

Paduano and his men, Guevarra added, "forcibly swooped down on the houses of Negrenses telling them not to vote for a candidate who is a rival of a politician Lualhati (Paduano) was supporting."

Residents of EB Magalona town reported harassment from armed men who went to the farms and forcibly put indelible ink on the fingers of voters known to be supporting the reelection bid of Alfonso Gamboa as mayor. The move was meant to prevent them from voting.

VIZCAYA TRADITION
MELVYN GASCON/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
A muse is dwarfed by the replica of a World War II artillery field gun supposedly used during war with the Japanese Imperial Army in Nueva Vizcaya as the province celebrates its 168th founding anniversary.

Nur poll defeat spells trouble, say his aides

COTABATO CITY—THE DEFEAT of Moro leader Nur Misuari in the gubernatorial race for Sulu was a setback for peace efforts in Sulu, his loyal aides said yesterday.

Based on the final canvass by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Misuari only garnered 19,121 votes compared to businessman Sakur Tan, who had 84,434 votes.

The total number of votes for Misuari was not even half of the 53,096 votes that reelectionist Gov. Benjamin Loong got.

Tan was eventually named governor on May 23 despite calls by several sectors to stop his proclamation because of alleged massive fraud during the balloting in the island-province.

Examining why Misuari lost, Muslimin Sema, secretary general of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), blamed the government.

Sema, also mayor of Cotabato City, said the government did not allow Misuari to embark on a full campaign to make voters aware he was running.

The Moro leader has been charged with rebellion and is under house arrest for the 2001 uprising of his followers in Sulu and Zamboanga City, where dozens of people were killed or injured.

Misuari was only allowed a one day pass from detention when he attended his slate's miting de avance on May 11.

"He was not able to campaign unlike his opponents," Sema said.

He said the current situation in Sulu is also complex and has proved to be not favorable to Misuari's bid.

The MNLF has claimed that over 2,000 members failed to vote on Election Day because either their names disappeared from the voter's list or they could not find their precincts.

"His defeat is unfair," Sema said.

Asked what Misuari's defeat has meant, Sema said: "His defeat is a setback to the peace and order in the province."

During the miting de avance, Misuari pledged to end the cycle of violence in Sulu.

Recently, some of his men engaged soldiers in battles, which triggered massive dislocation of civilians. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Woman drops rape complaint vs Iloilo priest

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PROVINCIAL Prosecutor's Office has dismissed two counts of rape filed against a priest here after the woman who sued him withdrew the cases.

Provincial prosecutor Bernabe Dusaban approved the recommendation of assistant prosecutor Portia Cabalum for the dismissal of the complaint against Martin Alarcon, the assistant parish priest of Carles town.

The 25-year-old woman withdrew the complaint because "she cannot attend the hearing of the cases, thus she is no longer interested to prosecute further the same," according to Dusaban's resolution dated May 2 and released only yesterday.

"She may not be able to sustain and establish the guilt of the respondent beyond reasonable doubt," Dusaban said.

The woman had claimed that Alarcon raped her twice—on Feb. 1 and 6—at his house in Leganes town in Iloilo after she tried to break a month-long love affair with him.

The woman's lawyer, Edeljulio Romero, said his client wanted to "finish the case immediately and live a normal life."

She plans to work abroad and the case might hinder her plans, Romero added.

Romero said since the filing of the complaint, her client had became anxious.

But Alarcon insisted it was a mere allegation without any basis.

He lamented that the filing of the case has destroyed his reputation as a result of media coverage.

The woman also filed a separate charge against three priests and a nun for obstruction of justice and illegal detention.

She withdrew that case, too.

Alarcon has been relieved of his duties at the Carles parish church.

Mayoral winner tells FVR: Leave Tagaytay City alone

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TAGAYTAY CITY—WINNING REelectionist Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino called on former President Fidel Ramos to support the city government's programs to sustain the economic development of this tourist city and advised him to "just leave local politics to us local politicians."

"The people of Tagaytay have already decided. We should respect the results of the elections," Tolentino said in an interview on Thursday, adding:

"Instead of pulling me down, I call on former President Ramos and the others to help me continue the progress of our city and move forward."

He offered his hand in reconciliation amid reports that his opponent, Ramos' candidate Jocelyn Ricardo, would file an election protest.

"Although I respect him as a former president, I think he should concentrate more in promoting the country globally than involving himself in local politics," Tolentino said.

A candidate of President Macapagal-Arroyo's party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, Tolentino beat Ricardo, who owns a local hotel and restaurant, in the May 14 elections for a second term. A Commission on Elections tally showed Tolentino garnered 13,648 votes while Ricardo had only 8,200.

Although Ramos and his wife, former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, actively campaigned for their rivals, Tolentino, the vice mayor and the 10 city councilors in his ticket won.

"This only proved that my constituents still want me and my political allies to continue our projects to promote and maintain the beauty, progress and peace and order in Tagaytay," he said.

A few weeks before the campaign period started, Tolentino criticized Ramos for arbitrariness in influencing the nomination of Ricardo as the official mayoral candidate of the Lakas-CMD party in Tagaytay. Ramos is the chair emeritus of Lakas-CMD.

Being the mayor, Tolentino argued that he should have enjoyed the incumbency rule of the party over other members vying for the same position.

He did not hide his frustration over Ramos' choice to support his rival despite his family's role in helping the former Army general-turned-politician in his campaign for the presidency in 1992.

Tolentino, a former councilor, succeeded his brother Francis Tolentino as mayor in 2004. Francis held the position for nine years. Their father Isaac was the longest-serving mayor of the city, holding the post for 27 years.

In 1995, reports circulated that Ramos' wife Amelita would run and contest the Tolentinos' control of city politics. She did not file her candidacy and instead helped Ricardo, who ran as councilor and lost.

Sources said Francis' refusal to Ramos' request to include Ricardo under the official lineup of his brother signaled the falling out of the former political allies.

A native of Pangasinan, Ramos is believed to own large parcels of lands in Tagaytay where prime lots could go as high as tens of thousands of pesos per square meter. Ramos also owns a restaurant, Ming's Garden, in neighboring Silang town.

THE RAMOS couple during the inauguration of Manor House at Camp John Hay in December 2001.
INQUIRER PHOTO

Laoag City polls break 'Marcos magic'

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—THE SO-CALLED Marcos magic failed to work in Laoag City with the reelection of Mayor Michael Fariñas, who will start serving his second term.

Fariñas swept the local slate with the election of his running mate, Vice Mayor Edward Domingo, while his other party mates took seven council seats.

Fariñas defeated Rowland Albano, whom the Marcoses had endorsed.

"This is a victory for Laoagueños," said Fariñas in a press statement. "We can now move to work on bigger plans which have been stalled due to adversarial politics."

One of the mayor's projects, the Ilocos Medical Center, has been put on hold as a result of opposition from the city council.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency had offered a P522 million grant to the city government for the hospital on condition that the city provide the 3.5-hectare lot on which to build it.

The city council blocked a resolution allocating land space for the hospital.

But the Marcoses succeeded in taking control of Ilocos Norte with the victory of family members in key provincial positions.

Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. will end his third and final term in June and return to Congress as representative of the province's second district. He will leave the gubernatorial seat to his cousin, former Gintong Alay Chair and Board Member Michael Keon.

Keon defeated former three-time Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas in the race.

Ilocanos seemed to have ignored criticisms that Keon did not speak the native tongue.

Keon acknowledged that his victory had much to do with the family name that Ilocanos continue to revere.

Aware that Marcos has been constantly chided for being an absentee governor, Keon vowed to keep himself visible at the provincial capitol.

"The people will always see me at the capitol even during the night," he said.

For the first time, Marcos and his wife, lawyer Louise Araneta-Marcos, had gone house to house to campaign for Keon.

The other Marcoses who will continue running the capitol include reelected Board Members Angelo Marcos Barba and Mariano Marcos II.

ELECTION officials proclaim Michael Fariñas as Laoag City mayor-elect.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Victory: A vote for the future

In this election, we, the Lakas Christian Muslim Democrats, and our coalition allies in the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, Nationalist People's Coalition, Liberal Party (Atienza Group), Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, offered a clear choice to the Filipino people.

It is a choice of what this nation, under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, can become.

We offered our candidates as a vote for the future, a vote for political stability, a vote for economic prosperity to propel our nation to the status of Southeast Asia's new economic tiger.

The Filipino people have spoken through the ballots – clearly, cleanly and fairly. And, this is their verdict.

Our multi-party allies have strengthened their control of the House of Representatives, winning a record high 183 seats with only nine congressional races still to be decided as of Wednesday.

Our coalition partners also won an overwhelming majority at the local level, in an election generally predicted as a referendum on the economic performance of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Already, we have garnered 64 of the 81 gubernatorial races with eight still to be decided, and won 101 of 119 posts for city mayors with six left for contention.

Predictably, our candidates for municipal mayors have dominated the local contests, a resounding endorsement and a clear mandate for President Arroyo to pursue her wide-ranging reform programs in the economic, political and social fronts.

Now, as we prepare to take our oath of office, we reaffirm our desire towards prosperity, progress and peace. This is our pledge, this is our commitment to the Filipino people.

Let us move forward with our winning candidates in the Administration Coalition. Mabuhay!

Representatives

Roque R. Ablan, Jr., Ilocos Norte, 1st District, LAKAS
Ronald V. Singson, Ilocos Sur, 1st District, LAKAS
Eric D. Singson, Ilocos Sur, 2nd District, LAKAS
Victor Francisco C. Ortega, La Union, 1st District, LAKAS
Thomas L. Dumpit, Jr., La Union, 2nd District, KAMPI
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Rachel J. Arenas, Pangasinan, 3rd District, LAKAS
Jose C. De Venecia, Jr., Pangasinan, 4th District, LAKAS
Marcos O. Cojuangco , Pangasinan, 5th District, NPC
Conrado M. Estrella III, Pangasinan, 6th District, NPC
Carlo Oliver D. Diasnes , Batanes, Lone District, KAMPI
Salvacion S. Enrile , Cagayan, 1st District, NPC
Florencio L. Vargas , Cagayan, 2nd District, KAMPI
Rodolfo Albano , Isabela, 1st District, KAMPI
Edwin C. Uy, Isabela, 2nd District, LAKAS
Faustino Dy III , Isabela, 3rd District, NPC
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Elias C. Bulut, Jr , Apayao, Lone District, NPC
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Mauricio G. Domogan, Baguio City, Lone District, LAKAS
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Albert Garcia , Bataan, 2nd District, KAMPI
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Pedro M. Pancho, Bulacan, 2nd District, LAKAS
Lorna C. Silverio, Bulacan, 3rd District, LAKAS
Reylina G. Nicolas, Bulacan, 4th District, LAKAS
Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Nueva Ecija, 2nd District, LAKAS
Czarina D. Umali, Nueva Ecija, 3rd District, LAKAS
Rodolfo Antonino , Nueva Ecija, 4th District, KAMPI
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J eci A. Lapus, Tarlac, 3rd District, LAKAS
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Victoria H. Reyes, Batangas, 3rd District, LAKAS
Mark Llandro LT. Mendoza , Batangas, 4th District, NPC
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Elpidio Barzaga, Jr., Cavite, 2nd District, KAMPI
Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Cavite, 3rd District, LAKAS
Wilfredo Marc Enverga , Quezon, 1st District, KAMPI
Proceso J. Alcala, Quezon, 2nd District, KAMPI
Danilo Suarez , Quezon, 3rd District, KAMPI
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Adelina Rodriquez , Rizal, 2nd District, NPC
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Angelito Gatlabayan , Antipolo City, 2nd District , KAMPI
Carmencita O. Reyes, Marinduque, Lone District, LAKAS
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Alfonso Umali , Or Mindoro, 2nd District, LP

Antonio Alvarez , Palawan, 1st District, KAMPI
Abraham Mitra , Palawan, 2nd District, NPC
Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona , Romblon, Lone District, LAKAS
Edcel C. Lagman, Albay, 1st District, LAKAS
Reno G. Lim , Albay, 3rd District, NPC
Dato M. Arroyo , Camarines Sur, 1st District, KAMPI
Luis R. Villafuerte , Camarines Sur, 2nd District, KAMPI
Arnulfo P. Fuentebella , Camarines Sur, 3rd District, NPC
Felix R. Alfelor, Jr. , Camarines Sur, 4th District, KAMPI
Joseph A. Santiago , Catanduanes, Lone District, NPC
Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Masbate, 1st District, KAMPI
Antonio T. Kho, Masbate, 2nd District, LAKAS
Rizalina S. Llanete , Masbate, 3rd District, NPC
Jose G. Solis , Sorsogon, 2nd District, KAMPI
Joeben Miraflores , Aklan, Lone District, KAMPI
Exequiel B. Javier , Antique, Lone District, LAKAS
Fredenil H. Castro, Capiz, 2nd District, LAKAS
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Arthur D. Defensor , Iloilo, 3rd District, LAKAS
Ferjenel G. Biron , Iloilo, 4th District, LAKAS
Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr. , Iloilo City, Lone District, LAKAS
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Alfredo D. Marañon III , Negros Occ., 2nd District, KAMPI
Jose Carlos V. Lacson , Negros Occ., 3rd District, LAKAS
Jeffrey E. Ferrer , Negros Occ.,4th District, NPC
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Genaro M. Alvarez Jr. , Negros Occ., 6th District, NPC-UNA
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Edgardo M. Chatto , Bohol, 1st District, LAKAS
Roberto C. Cajes , Bohol, 2nd District, LAKAS
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Pablo Garcia, Cebu, 2nd District, KAMPI
Pablo John Garcia , Cebu, 3rd District, KAMPI
Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI , Cebu, 5th District, NPC
Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, Cebu, 6th District, KAMPI
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George P. Arnaiz , Negros Or., 2nd District, NPC
Pryde Henry A. Teves , Negros Or., 3rd District, LAKAS
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Andres D. Salvacion, Jr., Leyte, 3rd District, PDSP
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Paul R. Daza, Northern Samar, 1st District, LP
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Sharee Ann Tan, Samar, 2nd District, KAMPI
Roger G. Mercado, So. Leyte, Lone District, KAMPI
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Rosendo Labad-Labad, Zamboanga Norte, 2nd District, LAKAS
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Belma A. Cabilao, Zamboanga Sibugay, 1st District, LAKAS
Dulce Ann Hofer, Zamboanga Sibugay, 2nd District, LDP
Ben Pancrudo, Bukidnon, 1st District, LAKAS
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Manuel E. Zamora, Compostela Valley, 1st District, LAKAS
Rommel C. Amatong, Compostela Valley, 2nd District, LAKAS
Arrel R. Olaño, Davao del Norte, 1st District, LAKAS
Anton Lagdameo, Davao del Norte, 2nd District, LAKAS
Marc Douglas IV C. Cagas, Davao del Sur, 1st District, LAKAS
Franklin Bautista, Davao del Sur, 2nd District, NPC
Prospero C. Nograles, Davao City, 1st District, LAKAS
Glenda B. Ecleo, Dinagat Island, Lone District, LAKAS
Philip Pichay, Surigao del Sur, 1st District, LAKAS
Florencio Garay, Surigao del Sur, 2nd District, PDSP
Yusoph Jikiri , Sulu, 1st District, LAKAS
Abdulmunir M. Arbison, Sulu, 2nd District, LAKAS
Nur G. Jaafar, Tawi-tawi, Lone District, LAKAS
Jose S. Aquino III , Agusan del Norte, 1st District, LAKAS
Edelmiro Amante, Agusan del Norte, 2nd District, KAMPI
Rodolfo Rodrigo G. Plaza, Agusan del Sur, Lone District, NPC
Francisco Matugas, Surigao del Norte, 1st District, KAMPI
Vincent J. Garcia, Davao City, 2nd District, NPC
Nelson Dayanghirang, Davao Oriental, 1st District, KAMPI
Thelma Almario, Davao Oriental, 2nd District, LAKAS
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Mohammad Khalid Dimaporo, Lanao Del Norte, LAKAS
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Arturo Uy, Compostela Valley, LAKAS
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Edward S Hagedorn , Puerto Princesa City , NPC
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Jennifer W. Tan, Tangub City, LAKAS
Ruth L. Guingona, Gingoog City, LDP
Rep. Constantino G. Jaraula, Cagayan De Oro City, LAKAS
Chiong T. Uy, Tagum City, LAKAS
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Muslimen G. Sema, Cotabato City, LAKAS
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ADVT

LA SALLE'S Thai guest player Sanorseang Areerat (left) and blocker Jacqueline Alarca rise to stop Adamson spiker Michelle Segodine's attack during their Shakey's V-League game last night at The Arena in San Juan. The gritty Lady Archers atoned for their loss to the UST Tigresses by scoring a five-set victory over the Lady Falcons. *See story below.*

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cardona's clutch treys bury Giants

By June Navarro

CAVITE CITY—MAC CARDONA CAME TO THE fore as Talk 'N Text downed Purefoods, 90-82, last night in the Talk N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup.

Cardona buried back-to-back triples to give the Phone Pals a safe 84-76 lead which they preserved up to end of the game that was played at the San Sebastian Recoletos Centennial Gym here.

The win was the Phone Pals' third straight victory and their 10th in 16 games.

By inflicting the Giants' 12th defeat in 17 games, the Phone Pals made the race for the two outright spots in the semifinals even tighter.

Talk 'N Text is breathing down the necks of conference-leaders Red Bull and Alaska, which share the top spot at 11-5, and the second-running Barangay Ginebra Kings (10-5).

Cardona actually drilled in 11 of his 23 points in the payoff period, nine of them from beyond the arc that ultimately altered the complexion of the roller-coaster match.

JJ Sullinger also put up decent figures by finishing with 22 points and rebounds, while Jay Washington finished with 17 points.

Behind the guns of Marquin Chandler and Roger Yap, the Giants moved within 75-78, entering the final two minutes.

But James Yap lost his footing in a crucial play and the leather went out of bounds, setting up Cardona's killer triple on the other end of the court.

Meanwhile, Barangay Ginebra tries to arrest a three-game skid and get back in the race for an outright semifinal slot today.

The Gin Kings tackle the unpredictable Sta. Lucia Realtors at 7:20 p.m. hoping to tie idle Red Bull and Alaska for the lead.

The scores:

TALK N TEXT 90—Cardona 23, Sullinger 22, Washington 17, Carey 9, Allado 6, De Ocampo 5, Belano 4, Billones 2, Fran 2.

PUREFOODS 82—Chandler 35, J. Yap 18, R. Yap 15, Simon 10, Artadi 0, Yee 0, Castillo 0.

Quarters: 17-20, 36-36, 63-64, 90-82

STANDINGS	W	L
Red Bull	11	5
Alaska	11	5
Ginebra	10	5
*Talk N Text	9	6
Air 21	9	7
SM Beer	8	7
Coca-Cola	7	9
Sta. Lucia	5	10
*Purefoods	5	11
Welcoat	3	12

*Still playing at presstime

GAMES TODAY
(*Ynares Center*)
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs Coca-Cola
7:20 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Barangay Ginebra

More Sports stories on A27 to A30

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Lady Eagles stun Tigresses; Lyceum leads

ATENEO SURVIVED the loss to injury of Thai guest player Namphon Intuan in the third set to upset favorite University of Santo Tomas, 18-25, 25-21, 25-19, 20-25, 15-10, yesterday in the Shakey's V-League at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lyceum Lady Pirates matched the Lady Eagles' stunning victory with a 25-22, 25-21, 25-22 decision of two-time NCAA champion San Sebastian College to remain in the lead with three straight victories.

La Salle fought back from two sets down to repulse Adamson in the nightcap, 23-25, 18-25, 25-17, 25-19, 15-10, and somewhat make up for its loss to UST last Tuesday.

The win raised the Lady Archers' mark to 2-1 while Adamson took its second straight setback.

The power-hitting Intuan scored all but one of her 27 points on kills. But the last point she delivered in the third set proved costly as she landed off-balanced and hurt her knee.

The Lady Eagles didn't flinch, though, with Michelle Laborte leading Ateneo's offense while providing much-needed help for Ma. Rosario Soriano at the net. *Inquirer Sports Staff*

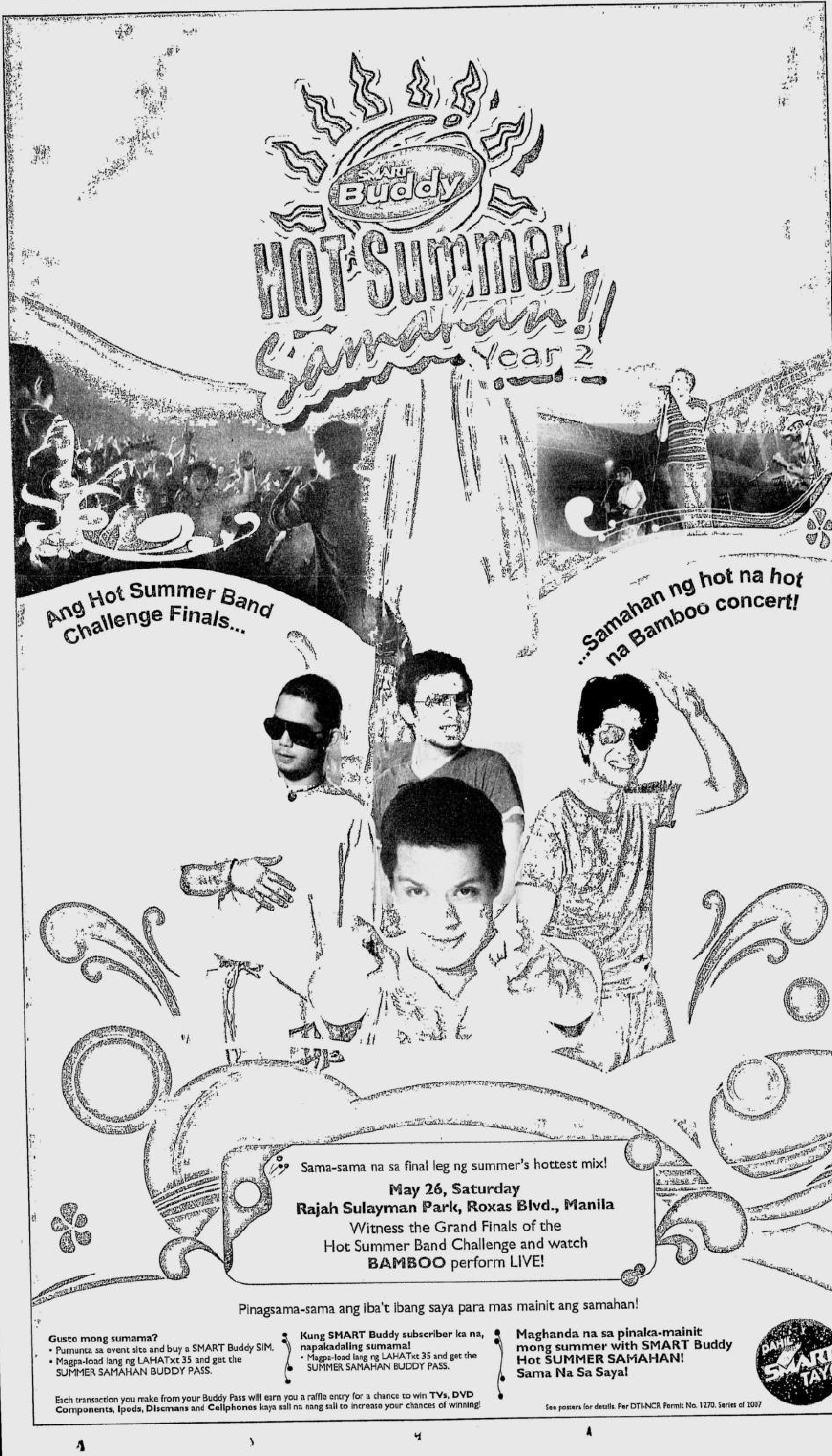
STANDINGS	W	L
Lyceum	3	0
UST	1	1
S. Sebastian	1	1
*La Salle	1	1
Far Eastern	1	1
Ateneo	1	1
*Adamson	0	1
Letran	0	2

*Playing at presstime

GAMES TUESDAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
1 p.m.—FEU vs Lyceum
3 p.m.—Letran vs Ateneo
5 p.m.—La Salle vs SSC

Corteza opens World 10-Ball bid

LEE VANN CORTEZA, THE REIGNING All JAPAN Championship titlist, braced for a rough sailing in the Predator World 10-Ball Championship that started Wednesday at the Bankshot Billiards Hall in Jacksonville, Florida. The 28-year-old Negros Billiard Stable ace drew unheralded Carlos Cabello in the first round but will battle 2003 World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany in the second. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*



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2 brothers file complaints against Vice President's wife

By Tina G. Santos

TWO MEN CLAIMING TO BE SONS FROM A previous marriage of Arlene Sinsuat de Castro, the wife of Vice President Noli de Castro, yesterday filed several complaints against her in the National Bureau of Investigation.

Jhoveenel Ombus Olor, 34, and his brother Arjurie Omar, 33, both of Calamba, Laguna, filed complaints for bigamy, perjury and falsification of documents against Arlene.

Vice President de Castro and his wife refused to comment on the cases, saying they would just let their lawyers respond to the charges.

Accompanied by their lawyer, the brothers claimed Arlene's marriage to their father Juanito Olor was "still valid and subsisting" when she married Manuel de Castro Jr. on July 16, 1991 in Cotabato City.

"At the time she executed her marriage with Manuel de Castro Jr. she did so by perjuring her statement and falsified said document," the complainants said in their joint affidavit. The complainants provided xerox copies of what they said were Arlene's supposed two certificates of marriage. One showed that Arlene was married to Olor on Nov. 17, 1971 at the Manila City Hall.

Both marriage certificates stated she was single at the time of their execution.

Lawyer Vladimir Bugarin, counsel for the complainants, said there were no documents to show that Arlene's first marriage was annulled before she married De Castro.

The brothers said they decided to file complaints against Arlene because they wanted her to acknowledge them as her children.

Acknowledgment

"She abandoned us when we were young. I think I was then 5," said Arjurie. He said he and his brother were left in the custody of their father, who was an overseas Filipino worker, so they grew up in the care of their grandfather.

"We just want her to straighten things out," Arjurie said. He added that his search for their mother began when he saw her name listed in the end credits of a television program. Arlene was the former vice president for current affairs for the television network ABS-CBN.

"I thought the name was quite familiar. It reminded me of my mother's name. So we went to ABS-CBN to confirm this, but she wouldn't talk to us," Arjurie claimed.

The few times they saw her, he said, Arlene asked them to just call her "Babo," the Muslim equivalent of "Tita."

Arjurie also said they were hurt when they found out that Arlene had legally adopted a relative as her daughter.

"*Nag-ampon siya samantalang kaming tunay niyang anak ayaw niyang kilalanin* (She was able to adopt, but she won't even acknowledge us as her children)," he lamented.

The complainants said they had nothing against De Castro.

"This has nothing to do with politics. We could have come out in 2004 when he was running for vice president, if this was our motive," Arjurie said. "We're not after the money or anything. We just want to be acknowledged. We are just fighting for our rights."

De Castro told the INQUIRER he knew Arlene had two sons and a daughter from a previous marriage. "This is too personal. My wife and I will just let our lawyers answer the charges," he said.

With Cynthia D. Balana

Cayetano wife new Taguig solon

By Julie M. Aurelio

REELECTIONIST TAGUIG CITY VICE MAYOR George Elias was finally proclaimed on Wednesday night, hours after incumbent Mayor Freddie Tinga was declared mayor-elect at dawn.

Elias, Tinga's running mate under the Kilusang Diwa ng Taguig, got a final tally of 71,459 against Loida Labao-Alzona's 69,550.

Board of Canvassers chair James Dell Demetria also proclaimed Lani Cayetano, wife of senatorial bet Alan Peter Cayetano, as the city's representative for the first district.

Cayetano, who belonged to the Genuine Opposition, ran against Councilor Arnel Cerafica of the KDT.

She was accompanied by her husband Alan and sister-in-law Pia.

Alan thanked the residents for voting his wife, who will replace him as the Taguig-Pateros representative.

Meanwhile, councilor Henry "Jun" Duenas Jr. won by a slim margin against his chief rival Jett Reyes in the second district's congressional seat.

Duenas got 28,564 votes, while Reyes garnered 27,107 votes. A third candidate, Arturo Alit, won 22,264 votes. Reyes is the son of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

However, Reyes' camp said they are not about to give up and will file charges against the BOC, whom they accused of being biased.

"When canvassing is illegal, results are illegal, too," said Atty. Ed Borje, one of Reyes's legal counsel.

Borje alleged that the BOC was biased because the body always denied their camp's motions while the other parties were sustained, even though they raised the same points.

He added that they would file before the Commission on Elections a petition for annulment of the proclamation. *With John Edison Fulgencio*

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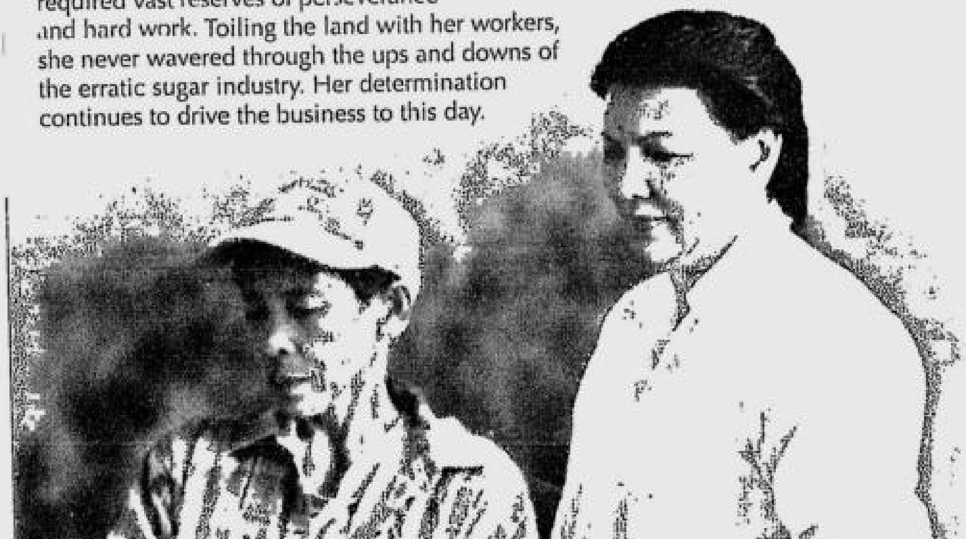
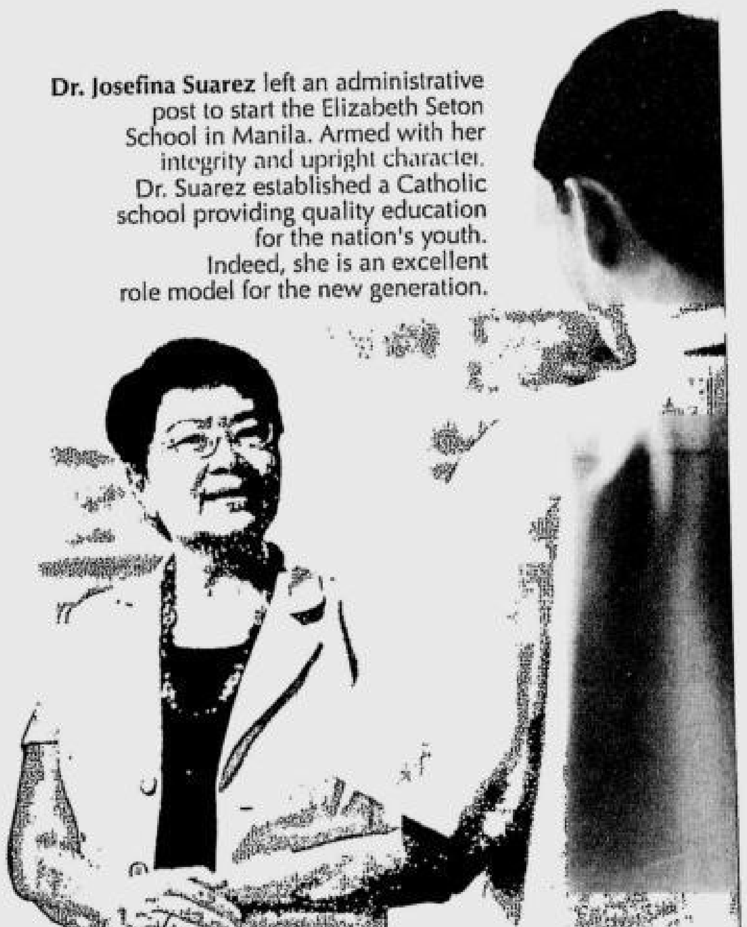
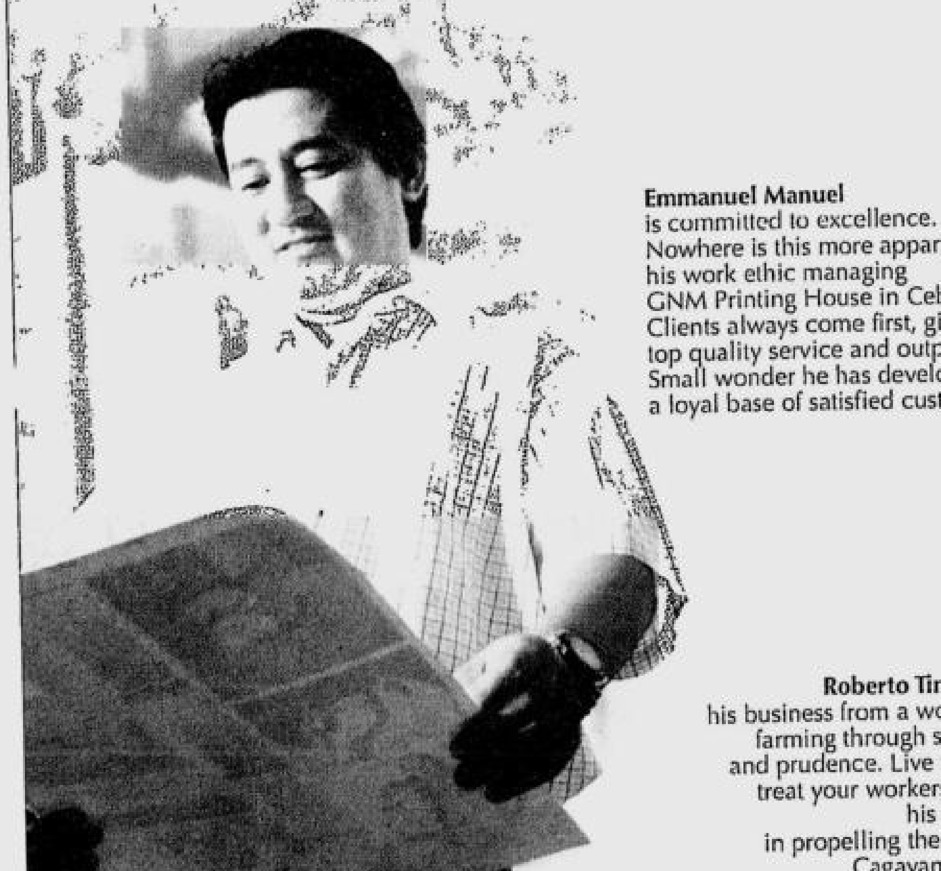


Dr. Josefina Suarez left an administrative post to start the Elizabeth Seton School in Manila. Armed with her integrity and upright character. Dr. Suarez established a Catholic school providing quality education for the nation's youth. Indeed, she is an excellent role model for the new generation.





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Pasig drug case witness shows 'evidence'

By Kristine L. Alave

GOVERNMENT WITNESS SAMER Palao submitted to the court yesterday a P5 million check as evidence that he was the right hand of alleged drug lord Amin Imam Boratong.

During his testimony, Palao gave to the court the Equitable-PCI Bank check in his name signed by Boratong. The check was dated March 2006.

Palao presented the check after defense lawyer Raymund Fortun said Palao failed to establish he was employed by and received a salary from Boratong.

Palao, who claimed to be Boratong's brother and his right hand in his Pasig shabu operation, is the government's main witness in the landmark drug case.

In previous testimonies, Palao said the accused paid him P50,000 to P300,000 a month during his years in Boratong's employ. He said the salary he got enabled him to buy a house and Pajero and Honda CRV cars.

But Fortun said the check did not cover Palao's employment starting 2001 until February 2006. Palao also did not show bank receipts or bank accounts that would establish his wealth as Boratong's righthand, Fortun said.

The lawyer said the witness also failed to provide evidence that he cooperated with the police and provided information on the illegal drug trade.

Boratong allegedly owns the 2,000-square meter compound of shabu stalls located a few meters away from the Pasig City Hall. It was demolished in February 2006 during a raid and about 300 persons were arrested.

Boratong claimed Palao operated the shabu dens at 41 F. Soriano St., Brgy. Sto. Tomas, Pasig City.

Ruffy wants to move on; Dong to protest

By Julie M. Aurelio

A DAY AFTER HE WAS FORMALLY declared congressman of Muntinlupa City by the Commission on Elections, reelectionist Rep. Rosanno "Ruffy" Biazon believes the mudslinging and politicking should end with the proclamation of the winners.

"We may have been opponents but we are not enemies," Biazon said, referring to his rival, television journalist Ricardo "Dong" Puno. "We can work together. Puno is in media. He can help the city a lot because he is a respected journalist."

But Puno's camp is dead-set on filing an electoral protest after their lawyers pulled out of the canvassing proceedings on Wednesday. Puno earlier called the canvassing "a sham and an illegal proceeding that seeks to thwart the will of the voters."

Puno also stressed that he was not conceding or pulling out of the race.

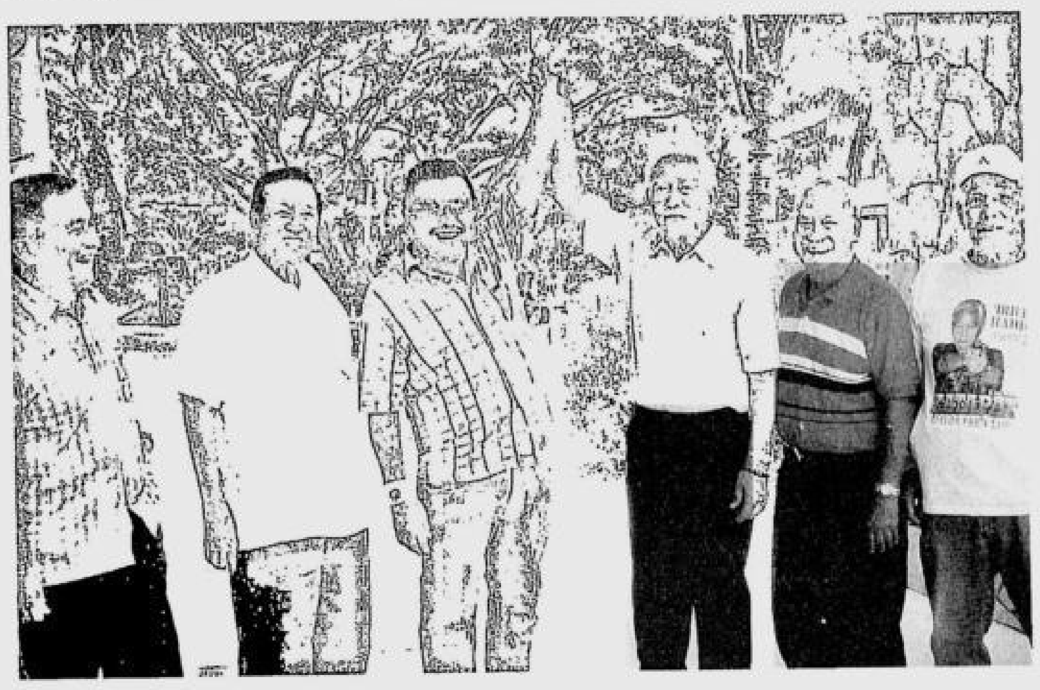
His legal counsel, Millicent Desiderio, said their camp was now studying possible legal remedies. "We no longer recognize the legality of the canvassing," she added. "It's useless to pursue it. We were really deprived of the due process. Our legal team will definitely file an electoral protest in due time."

Biazon admitted that although he wished his rival would not file a protest, it was his prerogative to do so.

Aldrin San Pedro of the Genuine Opposition team, and Temy Simundac, won as mayor and vice mayor respectively in elections held in the city. Puno ran under the administration ticket with mayoral bet Lor Fresnedi, wife of incumbent Mayor Jaime Fresnedi, and Simundac.

San Pedro said he does not see any problems working with Simundac. "I was also with another party when I won as vice mayor before, and (Mayor Jaime) was with the administration. *Kapag trabaho, trabaho. Walang politika*," he said. (It's just work, no politics involved).

"Mayor Fresnedi was mayor for nine years. He can help me a lot. I want a smooth transition too," San Pedro said.



COURTESY CALL

Mayor-elect Alfredo Lim, Manila mayoral bet of the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), recently paid a courtesy call on detained President and PMP chair Joseph Estrada following his victory. Also in photo are (from left): PMP director and retired police general Bobby Calinisan, retired Justice Rudy Palattao, Arturo Maliwat and Manolo Robles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Metro mayors to ask for Erap release

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A PETITION SEEKING THE IMMEDIATE RElease of detained President Joseph "Erap" Estrada is now being prepared, according to reelected Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

He said the petition was being drawn up after results of the last national and local elections showed that most of the candidates endorsed by Estrada won. Tiangco said the victory of the Genuine Opposition senatorial ticket and opposition mayors in Metro Manila indicated that most Filipinos believed Estrada was innocent.

Tiangco, who won over an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo and incumbent Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval, is the spokesperson of Estrada's political party, Pwersa ng Masa, in the National Capital Region.

"A manifesto to be signed by at least eight Metro Manila mayors ... (and will) be submitted to the proper body," the mayor said in a telephone interview. He said the decision to draw up the petition was made during a celebration the other day of elected opposition mayors in Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in San Juan.

He said the call for Estrada's release, dubbed "Freedom for Erap," was brought up by Manila mayor Alfredo Lim. Tiangco said though performance contributed to the opposition's victory, "the Erap factor is also a big plus."

Mayors expected to sign the manifesto are Makati City's Jejomar Binay, Pasay City's Pewee Trinidad, Lim, San Juan's JV Ejercito, Muntinlupa's Aldrin San Pedro, and Tiangco. "We also expect Nene Aguilar of Las Piñas and Joey Pineda of Pateros to sign the petition," Tiangco added.

METROBRIEFS

Bomb scare at MRT station

AN ABANDONED paper bag left near an MRT station in Pasay City caused a bomb scare early yesterday morning, forcing policemen to cordon off the Edsa southbound lane. Members of the Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) edged cautiously toward the bag, which they thought contained a bomb. When it was "detonated" a few minutes later, cops were surprised to see clothes, cologne, rubbing alcohol and other personal effects inside the bag. "It was probably left behind by a passenger," police chief Supt. Marietto Valerio told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. The paper bag was left near the Taft Avenue MRT station in Pasay City, a few hundred meters from the Metropoint Mall. Concerned citizens reported the presence of the paper bag at around 9:15 a.m., prompting police and the SWAT team to secure the area. The bomb scare caused a traffic jam along the southbound lane of Edsa. Deputy police chief Supt. Carlos Desagun said they "detonated" the bag because they were not sure if it really contained a bomb or not. But the police are not discounting the possibility that the bag was intentionally left behind by pranksters . "We also cannot disregard the possibility that some quarters could be testing our policemen's readiness and response to situations like this," Desagun said.

Julie M. Aurelio

No jeep fare hike in June

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said yesterday that there will be no jeepeny fare increase when classes start on June 4. LTFRB chairperson Thompson Lantion said the agency is still conducting consultations with transport groups and with the Department of Energy to get more data and forecasts on price trends this year. "The consultations may still be ongoing when classes start," Lantion said. But the LTFRB cannot guarantee that the minimum fare would not be restored to P7.50 at a later date. "It all depends on oil price movements," Lantion said. "Right now jeepney drivers are still enjoying discounts for diesel prices, which they can get at around P32, but even that may increase. The jeepney groups were not asking for a fare hike, just a return to the previous minimum fare." Earlier this week, jeepney groups Pasang Masda and the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations asked the LTFRB to restore the minimum fare to P7.50 in the National Capital Region and Central and Southern Tagalog. Fares in these high-traffic areas were slashed by P0.50 in December last year when oil prices stabilized. But Pasang Masda president Roberto Martin voiced fears that the price increases in fuel products last weekend could just be the start of a series of hikes. Militant jeepney group Piston (Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide), meanwhile, urged the government to junk the Oil Deregulation Law and transparency in the setting of oil prices.

Riza T. Olchondra

CoQ10 facilitates weight loss in clinical studies

PEOPLE WHO ARE OBESE SHOULD seriously take into consideration taking coenzyme Q or CoQ10 supplements to facilitate weight loss. Clinical studies have shown that regular intake of CoQ10 can speed up the metabolism of fats.

Prof. Hans Larsen, one of the world's leading experts on CoQ10, explained the benefits of the nutrient in his article published in the International journal of Complementary Medicine. He mentioned that obesity is associated with CoQ10 deficiency. CoQ10 facilitates the use of stored fat as a fuel. About half of the people with weight problems lack a sufficient amount of the energy nutrient, which may help explain why obese people are prone to both heart disease and diabetes.

CoQ10's benefit was seen in a study of overweight people following a low-calorie diet. Those who were deficient to see in the nutrients took a daily 100mg supplement of CoQ10 while others received no additional nutritional support. After two months, the supplement takers had lost 30 pounds while those who did not take the supplement only lost 13 pounds. Results of this study, which was done by Dr. K. Folkers and Dr. Y. Yamamura, were published in Biomedical and Clinical Aspects of Coenzyme Q10.

CoQ10 is produced by the body and is necessary for basic functioning of cells. However, there are times when the body can't make enough of this substance. Levels of CoQ10 can be increased by taking supplement containing the vital nutrient.

In the Philippines, Trianon CoQ10 has been available as an over-the-counter food supplement at Mercury Drug stores. It is imported from Now International, one of the top five leading sources of high-quality CoQ10 in the United States. Trianon CoQ10 is available in 30mg yellow capsules and usually prescribed by doctors for its adjunctive benefits at a dose of 30 to 60mg daily.

To learn more about CoQ10, call the Trianon hotline at 815-3239 or text your questions to 0917-8836164.

Microsoft, Intel forge partnership for the launch of Windows Vista

THE LOCAL SUBSIDIARIES OF Microsoft Corp and Intel Microelectronics recently formalized a partnership at the Microsoft offices in Makati in a move to strengthen the companies' alliance and shared commitment in providing the newest technology to the country. Microsoft, together with its partners, has launched the new Microsoft operating system, Windows Vista, in the Philippines.

Intel Microelectronics Philippines is one of the official technology partners of the Business Value Launch and Consumer Launch of Windows Vista, 2007 Microsoft Office system and Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 in the country. The global chipmaker, Intel Microelectronics, is the leading multi-core technology manufacturer in the world.

Microsoft's flagship products were made available to the Philippine market earlier this month. These new-generation products are set to simplify and revolutionize the user's entire computing experience.

"With Windows Vista and 2007 Microsoft Office System running on Intel Core2 Duo processors, consumers can truly experience 'More Performance and More Possibilities,' as they create, manage and share entertainment and information like never before," said Ricardo Banaag, country manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines.

Intel and Microsoft are delivering truly revolutionary multicore processors and operating systems to make the PC more entertainment savvy. For businesses, Intel Centrino Duo mobile technology gives Windows Vista users new levels of productivity, performance and reliability both in the office and on the go.

"We are excited about sharing Vista with the Philippines and the rest of the world," said Antonio Javier, managing director of Microsoft Philippines. "Together with Intel, Microsoft is providing innovative and new technologies that offer tremendous business and consumer value to the local market."

Shown are Antonio "TJ" Javier (left), managing director of Microsoft Philippines and Ricky Banaag, country manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines.

PCS annual meet, anniversary dinner set May 28

TO FURTHER ITS AVOWED MISSION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST cancer and in celebration of its 50th Anniversary, the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) will hold its 2007 Annual Meeting and Golden Anniversary Dinner on May 28, 5 p.m., at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. This was recently announced by PCS executive director Luzmindo B. Fajardo. The Philippine Cancer Society is the leading organization of volunteer doctors, business leaders and professionals who are committed to wage its mission in cancer prevention and detection, cancer research, palliative care and treatment.

UE offers Tourism, HRM degree programs

To prepare aspirants for exciting and fulfilling careers in hotel, restaurant, travel and tourism, locally or internationally, University of the East's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)-Manila and UECAS-Caloocan launch respectively new degree programs, effective first semester, school year 2007-08: Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management, and Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management.

These new programs assure students of comprehensive know how and skills training aimed towards developing their competency in hotel, restaurant, travel and tourism operations, well prepared to compete professionally at the global level.

For more information on these new programs, call: For BS Hotel and Restaurant Management - UECAS Manila Dean's Office, G/F, CAS Building, Manila Campus, 735-5471 local 368 or 375; For BS Tourism - UECAS Caloocan Dean's Office, 3/F, Tan Yan Kee Academic Building, Caloocan Campus, 367-4572 local 306, or 364-1497, or log on to www.ue.edu.ph.

MRII reviewees top chem eng'g, master plumber licensure exams

SEVEN REVIEWEES OF THE MANILA REview Institute Inc (MRII) in Chemical Engineering and 10 in Master Plumber capped top places in their licensure examinations from April 23 to 25 and from March 20 to 22.

In Chemical Engineering, the MRII topnotchers are Lyle M. Melad, De La Salle University, 1st place; Erwin N. Fernandez, University of the Philippines-Diliman, 3rd place; Maria Reina C. Pacaña, De La Salle University, 4th place; Herbert Klaus Martin C. Hallig, De La Salle University, 5th place; Johann Christian E. Jaducana, 6th place; and Miriam Abigail G. Chang, 7th place, both from Mapua Institute of Technology; Joanna Nicole T. Go, De La Salle University, 8th place.

In Master Plumber, the topnotchers are Erhwill DR Villagarcia, 1st place and Jerome V. Perez, 2nd place, both from Mapua Institute of Technology; Ritchie A. Mayo of University of Batangas, 3rd place; Eduard V. Ybarbia of University of the Philippines-Diliman, 4th place; Erwin U. Louis of Mapua Institute of Technology, 5th place; John David O. Oyek of University of Santo Tomas, 7th place; Dico P. Guia of Misamis University-Ozamis City and Virgilio B. Lao of Lyceum Northwestern University-Dagupan City, 8th place; and Kevin Martin V. Clutario and George S. Samson, 9th place, both from Mapua Institute of Technology.

Since its establishment in 1974, MRII has been producing topnotchers in Engineering Licensure Examinations, thus maintaining its total commitment to academic excellence. It offers regular and refresher programs for Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Sanitary Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Chemistry; and regular review program for Master Plumber, Teachers' Examination and Civil Service Examination.

For inquiries, visit MRII at 3/F Consuelo Building, 929 Nicanor Reyes Street (formerly Morayta), Manila or call 735-0112 to 14 or e-mail mrii@tri-isys.com.

Melika: Got to believe in magic

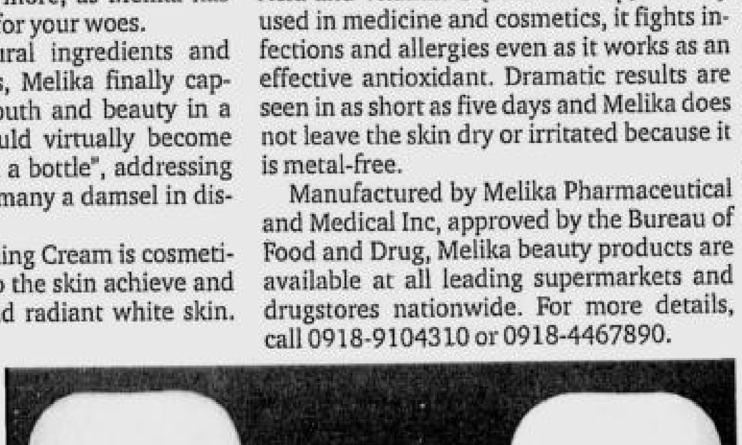
WORRIED ABOUT FACIAL POCKMARKS, unsightly dark spots in hidden areas like the nape, underarms, back of the elbows, knees, and the groin? Fret no more, as Melika has formulated an antidote for your woes.

Culled from all-natural ingredients and proven-safe compounds, Melika finally captured the essence of youth and beauty in a creamy potion that could virtually become the proverbial "genie in a bottle", addressing the beauty concerns of many a damsel in distress.

Melika Magic Whitening Cream is cosmetically formulated to help the skin achieve and maintain a youthful and radiant white skin. Processed from the essences of Peony, Scutellaria (Tiger ear plant) and Saxifraga root extracts, the beauty potion is bolstered with the inclusion of the wonder drugs N-Acetyl Tyrosine, Arbutin and Glutathione; warding off bacteria and pollution that constantly attack the skin's outer layer, factors that make the skin age prematurely.

Melika raises the ante further with Kojic Acid and Vitamin C (Pacificos Vap). Widely used in medicine and cosmetics, it fights infections and allergies even as it works as an effective antioxidant. Dramatic results are seen in as short as five days and Melika does not leave the skin dry or irritated because it is metal-free.

Manufactured by Melika Pharmaceutical and Medical Inc, approved by the Bureau of Food and Drug, Melika beauty products are available at all leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide. For more details, call 0918-9104310 or 0918-4467890.



US Senate slashes guest worker program

WASHINGTON—THE SENATE voted on Wednesday to slash the number of foreign workers who could come to the US on temporary visas as part of a broad bipartisan immigration bill.

A new guest worker program would be capped at 200,000 a year under the proposal, which passed 74-24 over strong opposition by the Bush administration.

Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said the change, proposed by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, a Democrat, would interfere with a "central component" of the White House-backed immigration measure. That plan provided for 400,000 worker visas annually, plus an option to increase that number to 600,000 if market conditions demand it.

"The Bingaman amendment would eliminate this critical flexibility and cut the size of the temporary worker program in half," Gutierrez said in a statement.

His comments came as the administration urged the Senate to approve the immigration legislation despite fresh criticism from presidential hopefuls and lawmakers in both parties.

The conservatives, liberals and centrists who worked out the deal are struggling to keep it intact.

Senate leaders in both parties, however, say it is important to have a vigorous debate. They have postponed a final vote until June.

"The proposal offers a much-needed solution for our nation's broken immigration system," the White House budget office said in a statement. "This proposal would deliver an immigration system that is secure, productive, orderly and fair."

The measure would grant an estimated 12 million unlawful immigrants quick legal status, toughen border security. It also would create a new workplace verification system to bar undocumented workers from getting jobs.

It would set up a point system for future immigration applicants that would place less emphasis on family connections and more on education and skills in demand by US businesses.

Sen. Barack Obama, a Democratic presidential hopeful, announced plans to challenge the point system, saying it devalued family.

The scheme "constitutes at minimum a radical experiment in social engineering and a departure from our tradition of having family and employers invite immigrants to come," Obama said, adding that he would work to phase it out.

A 2008 rival, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, said she would seek to lift new caps the measure would place on visas for family members of legal permanent residents.

Republicans sought to respond to conservative critics by trying to bolster security provisions and make it more difficult for illegal immigrants to get on a path to citizenship.

Sen. Lindsey Graham proposed cracking down on illegal border crossers with mandatory prison sentences.

"Everyone needs to know that America is changing its immigration laws. We're going to be serious about enforcing them. If you break our laws, you do so at your own peril, and you will lose your freedom," said Graham, a Republican.

The Senate was also considering a proposal by Sen. Charles E. Grassley, a Republican, that would allow visas to be revoked without court review.

"Current law allows aliens to run to the steps of our country's courthouses and take advantage of our system," Grassley said. He said potential terrorists could stay in the country unless lawmakers approved his change. *AP*

California can't import graduates fast enough

SAN FRANCISCO—CALIFORNIA will need an unprecedented migration of high-skilled, college educated workers over the next two decades to meet projected demands of employers, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Attracting those workers from other states or from abroad on a scale to meet the demand is unlikely so California should focus on improving its education system, according to the report by the Public Policy Institute of California.

"Given recent trends, the state probably won't be able to attract enough college-educated workers to meet current, skill-driven, economic projections—and thus may have to rein in expectations about what the economy will look like in 20 years," the report said.

Institute researchers projected that by 2025, 32 percent of California's working-age adults will hold college degrees, compared with 31 percent in 2005.

Meanwhile, by 2025 two of every five jobs in California will require a college degree, compared with a third currently, the researchers said.

"The work force of 2025 will be skilled, but not as skilled—and the economy not as productive or high-income—as current projections imply," said institute economist Deborah Reed.

California employers have long been at the forefront of lobbying in Washington, DC for more generous policies for high-skilled immigrants, an important source of labor for the state's high-technology industries since the 1980s.

Their lobbying has grown more intense as legislation to overhaul immigration laws moves forward in Congress and amid a decline in highly-educated immigrants settling in California.

Even if an immigration overhaul works in their favor, California employers can not count on a reversal of recent trends in high-skilled immigration to the state, said Reed and institute demographer Hans Johnson.

They projected the net flow of college graduates from abroad would need to more than double immediately to meet the projected annual requirements for the state's economy. *Reuters*

A MOTHER and daughter join immigration rights supporters in a march through the street in Los Angeles, California on May 17. AFP

Millionaire NY couple charged with keeping Indon women as slaves

GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK—A millionaire couple accused of keeping two Indonesian women as slaves in their luxurious suburban New York home and abusing them for years have been indicted on federal slavery charges.

Varsha Mahender Sabhnani, 35, and her husband, Mahender Murlidhar Sabhnani, 51, operate a worldwide perfume business out of their Long Island home, contracting with overseas factories to manufacture the fragrances.

The two, who are US citizens from India, were arrested last week after one of their servants was found wandering outside a doughnut shop, wearing only pants and a towel. The woman was believed to have fled the home when she took the trash out the night before.

The couple pleaded not guilty in US District Court, and a magistrate judge set bail at $3.5 million and imposed home detention with electronic monitoring.

An indictment handed up on Tuesday night formally charged them with two counts of forced labor and added two counts of harboring illegal residents.

Charles A. Ross, who represents Varsha Sabhnani, has said that the couple traveled extensively and that the two Indonesian women were free to leave whenever they wished.

Assistant US Attorney Demitri Jones called the allegations "truly a case of modern-day slavery."

The women, prosecutors said, were subjected to beatings, had scalding water thrown on them and were forced to repeatedly climb stairs as punishment for perceived misdeeds. In one case, prosecutors said, one of the women was forced to eat 25 hot chili peppers at one time.

One of the women also told authorities they were forced to sleep on mats in the kitchen and were fed so little, they had to steal food.

The women legally arrived in the United States in 2002; the Sabhnanis then confiscated their passports and refused to let them leave their home, authorities said. *AP*

Illegal immigrants' refrain: 'Leaving America is not an option'

LOS ANGELES—FRANCISCO Gimenez risked his life to get into United States and he's not planning to leave in a hurry.

Like many members of Los Angeles' immigrant community, the 27-year-old butcher is skeptical about proposed legislation intended to offer illegal workers a path to citizenship.

Under recently-announced reforms, Gimenez would be required to return to Mexico at some point in order to secure the right to work legally in the US, possibly paying up to $5,000 in fines as well.

Gimenez fears however that once he leaves America he won't be allowed back in.

"I don't really understand that much about the bill, but I'd have to be crazy to go back to Mexico to apply for visa now that I am already in the US," he says. "They wouldn't give me a visa there."

Persuading workers like Gimenez that it is in their interests to leave appears to be one of the biggest challenges facing US authorities, as they try to bring the country's 12-million strong illegal labor force out of the shadows.

In factories, markets, car-washes and laundromats, illegal workers in Los Angeles' Hispanic community have the same refrain: "Going home is not an option."

Gimenez is one of the thousands who put their lives in the hands of human-traffickers known as "coyotes" to sneak across the southern border with Mexico.

Often immigrants trying to cross the desert are robbed or murdered by bandits and rival gangs. But the rewards on offer for those willing to take the risk are immense.

Gimenez, who paid $3,000 to a smuggling gang to help get him across the border in Arizona in 2003, sends back $400 a month to his wife and two children in Mexico.

His salary of just over $1,400 a month is roughly 10 times what he would earn for the same job in Mexico.

"I would love to go back and live in Mexico but I can only make money here," Gimenez said.

"For me the important thing about the legislation is if I can visit my country or bring my family here legally without the danger of them having to try and cross the border." For other illegals, finding the money required to pay for legal status under the new reforms is problematical.

"If I could pay $5,000 to get residency or a work permit without leaving the country I would pay that because it's roughly the same amount you have to pay to the 'coyotes,'" said Sigfrido Villalta, a worker in a car wash.

"But when you only have $1,000 a month it's hard. Obviously I want a residence visa. But I need the ability to pay for one, and there is also the possibility they could penalize the employer."

Gimenez' employer, Jose Luis Rojas, an illegal immigrant who acquired permanent residency and citizenship after Ronald Reagan's 1986 amnesty, is confident that a solution is only a matter of time.

"I came to America as an illegal worker and now I'm a citizen," Rojas said. "That's why I say to them just be patient." *AFP*

Wendy's announces expansion, sports new image

Wendy's International will invest $25,000 per store and another P50 million from WenPhil Corp to its store expansion and remodeling of Wendy's Hamburgers in the Philippines.

It will be a redevelopment phase for Wendy's when it wages wider marketing strategies over the next few years in a joint venture with Wendy's International.

The joint venture, according to WenPhil Corp general manager Jason John WS Lim, will allow a target of about 30-percent income and onward to bringing fastfood concept to a higher level.

Lim said the activity brings new and modern inputs such as the fusion of different concepts of enhancing the product's value and image. "We call it a fresh look. Our stores will be a little more upscale so we can give more value to our consumers- not the typical type of a fastfood. Though it's still going to be a quick service, we're encouraging people to linger and relax while eating instead of pressuring them to eat. The environment is more of (into) enjoying your food instead of rushing into food," he added.

These features are integrated with Wendy's International's decision to a wholistic approach in its expansion program to establish a fusion of the $25,000 per store incentive or support for Wendy's Philippines to remodel the store.

"We try to go the extra mile to our consumers. One good example of the fusion is the tie-up with Nokia. If you've seen most of our stores, a pre-charging station is already in place, for free. Other fusions would include tie-ups with different concepts like a music concept (listening station), a health corner, coffee, etc. We're going to make Wendy's stores hotspot equipped with WiFi, plasma TV, also carpeted, etc." Lim explained.

Fastfood as 'slowfood'

The fusion is expected to operate at par with the upscale services introduced by the trend in Europe to make fastfood a "slowfood" - more inviting, relaxed, convenient, and wonderful experience. "People are more productive when they slow down (eating), it's a healthy lifestyle," Lim furthered.

Renovations will take place starting next month with the first three stores in Festival Mall, PGH Taft, and Makati Avenue. By the third quarter of this year, Wendy's stores in Greenbelt and Shangri-La will be remodeled. "Initially, for this year, we expect to complete the renovations of 10 stores," he said.

To date, Wendy's has 38 stores. It has opened its latest outlet at the biggest mall, SM Mall of Asia, and still continues to expand operations in strategic areas of the country. Wendy's expects to hit 50 stores when it celebrates its 25th year on Dec. 8, 2008.

While strengthening and then later maintaining its foothold in the local market, Wendy's also sought to make its presence felt in other food segments by going to fresh express booths. "We call them remote order points, an extension of our delivery service. Basically, these booths are found inside office buildings, hospitals, schools, etc," Lim said.

Wendy's identity as the only fastfood restaurant that offers nutritious, good tasting, and high-quality food has accounted a lot of loyal patrons. "We may not lead in terms of the number of stores, but we're no. 1 in quality," Lim stressed. Adding that with the new fusion concept, "we will still maintain the same quality of food and more value for the money you spend while you're at Wendy's."

The adoption of this new strategy follows the expansion of Wendy's International in all of its roughly 5,000 stores all over the world. The reinvention of concepts will be in Asia and Latin America. "We will upgrade Wendy's image in the Philippines as a global brand."

A lot has changed since Wendy's origins started its first outlet at Parksquare, Makati, but the firm's mission and vision have remained the same and have consistently been the guiding principles in the path the company has taken in the last 24 years.

With the guidance of Wendy's International, it was not difficult for Wendy's to become one of the leading fastfood chains and one of the top 1,000 corporations in the country today.

Now, almost a quarter of a century after it started operations, Wendy's Philippines shows no signs of slowing down. The firm is now looking at franchising as it continues to expand, and in the process, to grow its business.

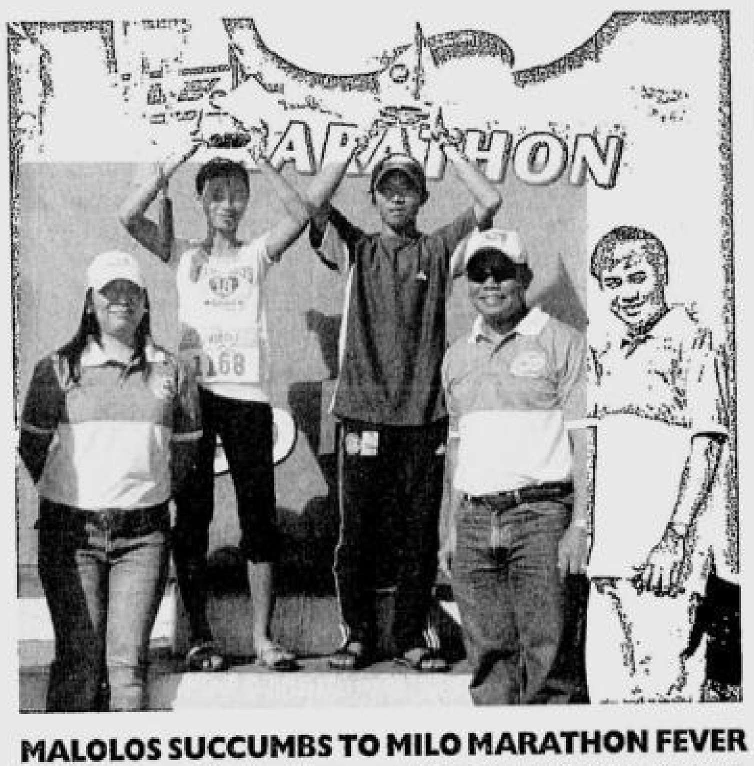
Tatap to revive junior table tennis development program

IN ITS SERIOUS EFFORTS TO propagate table tennis among the youth, the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) is set to revive the National Table Tennis Junior Development Program during the staging of the forthcoming National Selection and National Age Group Championships, which is ongoing until May 27.

This was bared by Alvin Carranza, Tatap board member and chair of the national coaching committee during a recent board meeting presided by Tatap president Victor U. Valbuena. Both National Cadet (aged 13 and below) and Junior Teams will be formed based on the results of the tourney, which hopes to attract more than 500 players all over the country.

This will also be the first of a series of selection processes Tatap will conduct throughout the year in its attempt to also reach out to the other regions, particularly in Visayas and Mindanao where a long-term development unfolds. With these, it will strengthen the national pool which hopes to participate in a series of international junior events such as the Southeast Asian and the World Junior Championships.

In addition, Tatap has tapped the services of veteran national coach Floyd Lobaton, who has produced national players in the likes of Sendrina Balatbat and Arlene Borja, both former junior standouts. He will be in charge of the overall junior program, which will be decentralized in the different clubs all over the country.



MALOLOS SUCCUMBS TO MILO MARATHON FEVER

The 31st National Milo Marathon, the country's most prestigious running event, recently staged its 3rd elimination race at the progressive town of Malolos, Bulacan. Malolos Mayor Danilo Domingo fired the starting gun for the 5,000 runners who joined the fun and competition. Michael Canillo and Vanessa Sugalan, after bagging the top prizes together with four other runners up, represent Bulacan in the national final. Shown (from left) are Nestle regional sales manager for Central Luzon Isabelle Vistan, Malolos Milo Marathon champs Vanessa Sugalan and Michael Canillo, Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong and Milo marketing promotions and quality assurance specialist Christian Arsenal during the awarding ceremonies.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel seizes Hamas minister, 32 other leaders, bombs Gaza

NABLUS—ISRAELI FORCES SEIZED A PALESTINIAN cabinet minister and 32 other officials in the occupied West Bank and launched air strikes in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, stepping up a campaign against Hamas Islamists.

The overnight arrests came after Hamas and other groups rebuffed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's call for a halt to rocket attacks by Gaza militants at Israeli towns. Two months after they formed a unity government, Hamas and Abbas's secular Fatah faction remain at daggers drawn in a struggle for control.

Israeli troops entered the West Bank city of Nablus and took into custody Education Minister Naser al-Shaer of Hamas, according to his wife, Huda. "I asked them, 'Why are you taking him?' The officer said, 'We have orders,'" she told Reuters.

Israeli forces also seized at least three Hamas lawmakers, the mayor and deputy mayor of Nablus and other Hamas officials in neighboring towns and villages, Hamas officials said.

The Israeli Army said in a statement that 33 people had been arrested across the West Bank and were taken for questioning.

"The Hamas terror organization is currently involved in enhancing the terror infrastructure in the (West Bank) region, based on the model used in the Gaza Strip. The organization exploits governmental institutions to encourage and support terrorist activity," the statement said.

An Israeli government official said Israel would continue to seek out Palestinian militants.

"Israel is making it crystal clear that it is adamant about stopping the Hamas terror directed against us both in the Gaza Strip via the continuous Qassam rocket attacks and in the West Bank where the terror cells continue to flourish," the official, David Baker, said.

Israel conducted a similar operation last year against Hamas ministers and lawmakers in the West Bank that sparked an international backlash. Hamas, whose leaders include Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, accuses Israel and Western powers including the United States of siding with Abbas's Fatah faction against it.

In Gaza, one of the Israeli air strikes hit a car carrying Hamas militants. They escaped unharmed but at least two people nearby were injured in the blast, witnesses said.

Other Israeli air strikes targeted Hamas's financial network, the Army said.

Abbas had hoped to convince militants to stop rocket attacks against Israel as part of a renewed ceasefire with the Jewish state. But Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said Israel's actions showed any ceasefire call by Abbas was "worthless."

The Islamist group and others said they would only consider stopping rocket attacks if Israel first called off all of its military operations in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel has rebuffed similar demands in the past, arguing its West Bank operations are essential to preventing militant attacks.

In addition to the attack on the car, Israeli air strikes destroyed the offices of at least two Gaza money-changers close to Hamas, residents said.

An Israeli Army spokesperson accused one of the money-changers of transferring millions of dollars a month from Iran, Syria and Lebanon to Hamas.

Some 50 Palestinians were killed in the latest round of factional fighting between Hamas and Fatah.

Israeli air strikes over the last eight days have killed at least 35 Palestinians. *Reuters*

PICTURE taken on May 14 shows 78-year-old Tai Yum-po sitting on his bed in a "cage dwelling," in one of the world's most densely populated areas, in the Mong Kok district of Hong Kong. Hong Kong boasts some of Asia's richest people, yet out of its seven million residents, an estimated 1.25 million live below the poverty line. AFP

Hong Kong's 'cage homes' reveal wealth gap

By Stephanie Wong

HONG KONG—SPACE IS LIMITED in the cage Kong Siu-kan calls home: a few pieces of clothing are stuffed at one end of his bed, other items perch on a makeshift shelf and a glass of water sits beside his pillow.

Kong's fellow tenant, 78-year-old Tai Yum-po, has made better use of his space: he hooks his towel, jackets, pot noodles, bags of washing powder and toothpicks to his bed.

Hidden behind the high-rise office blocks and glitzy shopping malls of Hong Kong, a huge number of ordinary people have been left behind by the economic boom since the city returned to Chinese rule a decade ago.

As as international financial hub it boasts some of Asia's richest people and more Louis Vuitton shops than Paris or New York.

Yet out of its seven million residents, an estimated 1.25 million—people like Kong and Tai—live below the poverty line.

They share a room with nine other men in one of Hong Kong's notorious "cage dwellings"—small, dingy flats that have been further subdivided into cages where there is no room for anything other than a bed.

For these men, home is four walls of rusty steel wire mesh with a sliding door at one end that allows them to slide in and out.

"I tried to find work for years, but I'm getting old and no one would hire me. So I gave up," said Kong, a thin, 61-year-old father of two grown-up sons with whom he has lost contact.

"I couldn't have imagined I would have ended like this but I don't feel too bad about this any more," he said.

Official figures show a growing chasm between the rich and poor: one in 15 households in 2006 had a monthly total income of $770 or less (HK$6,000), four percent more than a decade ago.

Those earning $3,850 or more a month have risen two percent.

Cage dwellings are just one example of worsening poverty in this southern Chinese territory, where only 35 percent of the 3.4 million working population pays income tax and the top 100,000 earners contribute 60 percent of salaries tax.

Built in the 1940s to accommodate a wave of Chinese refugees fleeing the civil war on the mainland, about 100 cage homes remain, housing some of Hong Kong's poorest and most downtrodden. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US issues nuclear warning to Iran

WASHINGTON—The United States threatened new UN sanctions to punish Iran's nuclear drive as it ratcheted up tensions with the biggest display of naval power in the Gulf in years. A bristling US armada led by two aircraft carriers steamed into waters near Iran for exercises on Wednesday, hours before UN watchdogs said Iran was expanding its uranium enrichment program in defiance of international sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that Iran continues to enrich uranium, which can provide fuel for civilian reactors but also make nuclear bombs. That prompted warnings from US officials of further UN punishment unless Iran curtails its nuclear development, which the Islamic republic insists is devoted to civilian energy. *AFP*

US confirms body of missing soldier found in Iraq

BAGHDAD—The US military confirmed on Thursday that a body pulled from the Euphrates River near Baghdad on Wednesday was that of one of three missing US soldiers abducted in an ambush two weeks ago. Iraqi police said on Wednesday they had found the corpse of a Western-looking man in the river 60 km south of the capital. The body, wearing US Army-issue pants and boots, had bullet wounds and bore signs of torture. US military spokesperson Lt. Col. Josslyn Aberle said the body was that of Private First Class Joseph Anzack Jr. of Torrance, California. He was 20 years old. Anzack went missing with two comrades after their patrol was ambushed on May 12 in Mahmudiya in the "Triangle of Death," an insurgent stronghold south of Baghdad. Four US soldiers and an Iraqi translator were killed in the attack. *Reuters*

Castro says he underwent several operations

HAVANA—Convalescing Cuban leader Fidel Castro revealed in an article released on Wednesday that he underwent several operations, some of which where initially unsuccessful. Cuban officials had said that Castro, 80, had gastrointestinal surgery on July 27, forcing him to hand power temporarily to his brother Raul. The communist leader now says he went under the knife more than once. "It was not just one operation but several," read the article, distributed ahead of publication in the Thursday newspaper. "Initially there was no success, and that resulted in the prolonged period of recovery." According to the article, the 11th in the past two months, Castro has stabilized his weight at 80 kilos (176 pounds) and now takes by mouth all he needs for his full recovery. "During several months I received an important part of my food through the veins and catheters," he wrote. "No danger is larger than those related to aging," he said, adding that he "abused" his health "in the uncertain times during which I lived." *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION 40 San Miguel Ave., Mandaluyong City	Kazuhiro Tsukahara	Executive Director
SILLA STAR HANDICRAFTS INC. No. 4 MIA Road, Tambo, Paranaque City	Seungjin Yun	Sales Consultant
OVERSEAS DENTALTECHNIK INC. 2/F, 52 Dona Soledad Ave., Better Living Subd., Brgy. Don Bosco, 1711 Parañaque City	Fritz Minder	Production Manager
ZTE CORPORATION 25/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Shihua Zhang	Engineer
e-PERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS CORP. 2/F Buendia Center, Senator Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Adam Glenn Fuqua	Performance Maximization Supervisor/ Lead Trainer
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chee Loong Choong	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Haixia Deng	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor, PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wee John Toh	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Meri	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Thi Thi Cam Nguyen	IT Support Staff
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IFAFA TECH, INC. 3402 PBComTower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera St., Makati City	William Wei-Min Hsu	Consultant
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Hermanto	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ling Li	IT Support Staff
PETRONAS PHILIPPINES INC. 15/F Citibank Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Marcus Allus	President
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wee Siong Lim	IT Support Staff
SABICLUB.COM CORP. 2/F Aguirre Bldg., 108 H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kwang Il Koo	Sales Officer
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Zhi Huoo Tan	IT Support Staff
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Jhoni	IT Support Staff
MLAG ENTERPRISES Rm. 201 Paramount Bldg., 434 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila	Mohamed Omer Ahmed	Language Translator
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Tjoa Susanto	IT Support Staff
MARKFIVE, INC. Unit 416 Blanco Center, 119 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Miriam Gubovicova	Model
CASPO, INC. 10th Floor PBCom Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Sutomo	IT Support Staff
SCUBA WORLD, INC. 1181 Pablo Ocampo St., Makati City	Ryan Dowling	Instructor
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PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY 10/F PLDT-MGO Bldg., Legaspi St. cor. Dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Makoto Handa	Executive Advisor
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GRANSOL TRADING CO., INC. Unit 910 Cityland Megaplaza, ADB Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hai Jin Jung	Director
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If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity.
For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - May 25. 2007)

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP five heavy pick vs Singapore today /A29

SPORTS

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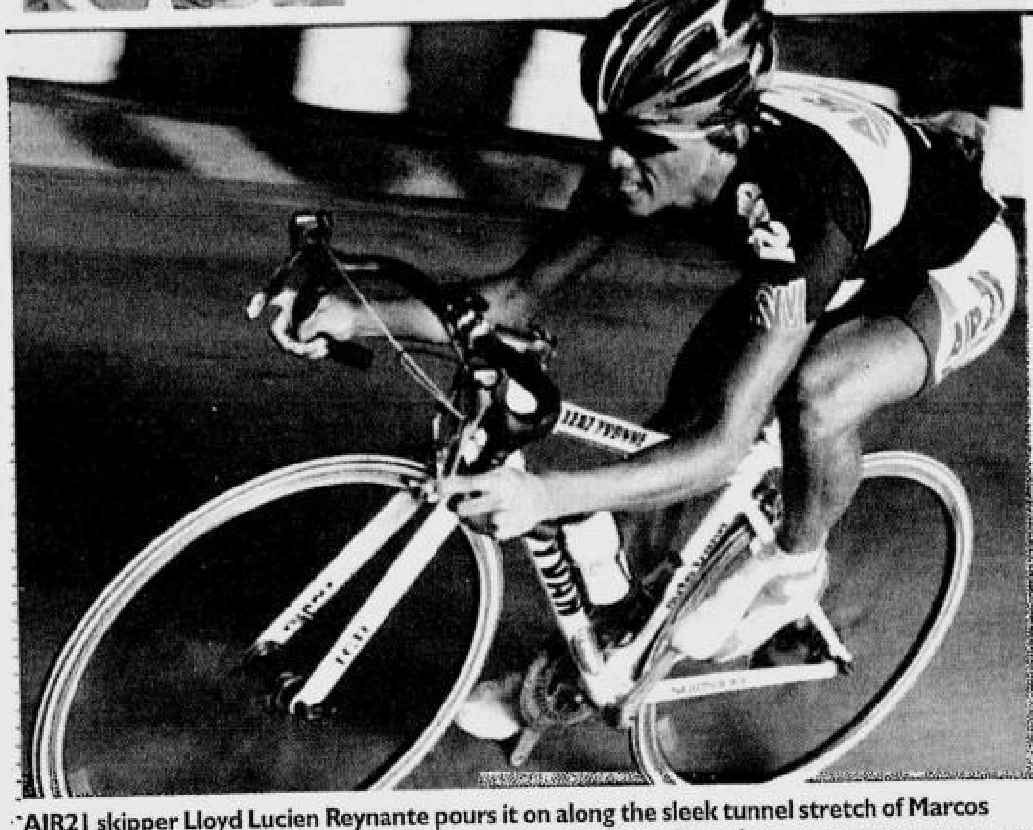
AC Milan snares Euro crown /A30



AIR21 skipper Lloyd Lucien Reynante pours it on along the sleek tunnel stretch of Marcos Highway in Tuba, Benguet, after breaking away from the main pack. INQUIRER PHOTO/BOY CABRIDO

Espiritu vaults to top again; Reynante wins

By Musong R. Castillo

BAGUIO—THERE HAD NOT been anything but cold rain the past seven days in this scenic summer capital.

Then Victor Espiritu and Lloyd Reynante came along yesterday and brought some "heat" with them.

In first true test of climbing strength in the 2007 Tanduay Padyak Pinoy, Espiritu and Reynante scorched the field in the mountains of the Cordilleras to shake up the leaderboard yet again and put the pretenders in their rightful place.

Reynante topped the sixth stage from San Fernando, La Union to here with Espiritu coming in a close second to regain the yellow jersey of leadership.

"Wala naman talaga sa plano kunin ulit ang (I really didn't have any plans of reclaiming) yellow jersey," Espiritu, who crossed the Burnham Park finish half-a-bike behind his close friend Reynante, said.

"Mahirap kasi yan, dahil namatahan na naman ako (Now all eyes will be on me again)," added Espiritu, who held the lead for two days after the third stage and reclaimed top spot with a 39-second margin over Baler Ravina.

Reynante clocked 2 hours, 30 minutes and 32.93 seconds for the back-breaking 80-kilometer journey to here via the Marcos Highway, a route so brutal that Ravina lost the overall lead without anyone really trying and all the big guns merely positioning themselves for the kill.

"Expected *naman na ako ang kukuha ng* lap *na ito* (Many expected me to really win this lap)," said Reynante, son of two-time Tour champion Manuel.

"Kaya sa tingin ko medyo low *ang* morale *nila, may* advantage *na ako umpisa pa lang ng karera* (That's why I had an advantage before the race even started because their morale was already low)."

From 11th overall and 4:47 behind the pocket-sized Ravina at the start of the day, Reynante jumped to fourth, now just 1:46 off Espiritu heading into the decisive Baguio-to-Baguio stage today.

Ravina, who claimed ownership of the lead after the Laoag-to-San Fernando, La Union sixth stage on Wednesday, dropped to second spot ahead of Irish Valenzuela, the top rookie last year, who moved up a notch, 1:43 adrift.

Reynante, a 25-year-old Navyman, pulled abreast of a seven-man breakaway group just after Agoo in La Union. Together with Merculio Ramos and Bernard Luzon, Reynante peeled away from that pack before leaving Ramos and Luzon behind going into the final 25 kilometers.

Espiritu, meanwhile, was in the middle of the main wave when Reynante staged his breakaway. But he gave chase, caught up with Reynante and they rode side by side entering the final 15 kilometers.

Ramos, one of the big name returnees to this event, finished fourth for the lap, 1:50 behind Reynante and Espiritu and more than 46 seconds behind surprise third placer Sherwin Carrera.

Ramos climbed to seventh from 10th in the overall race, 3:40 off, while Carrera was only 4:52 behind in eighth spot.

The 31-year-old Espiritu, who won the Tour Ng Pilipinas as a rookie in 1996, said the title will be decided today when the 93 remaining cyclists go down Marcos Highway, return to Baguio via Naguillan, go down Marcos again, before climbing Kennon.

"Kung sino ang nakadilaw pagkatapos bukas, siya na yun (Whoever wears the yellow jersey after tomorrow is the champion)," said Espiritu, who finished third behind Ryan Tanguilig and Ravina the last time he saw action here in 2004.

"*Kaya pa naman* (I still think I can do it)," the 25-year-old Ravina, the 2004 Rookie of the Year who was eighth yesterday, said. *"Tinalo ko na din naman si* Victor *sa ahunan, kaya tingin ko may laban pa din* (I already defeated Victor in the climb, that's why I still think I have a chance)."

Defending champion Santy Barnachea checked in sixth for the stage, 2:36 behind but still rose in the standings to fifth overall, 2:52 adrift and and far from being a deposed titleholder.

Caltex is new team leader

BAGUIO CITY—CALTEX, LED BY SKIPPER Joel Calderon, wrested the overall team lead from defending champion Cossack Vodka yesterday after a courageous effort in the seventh stage of the 2007 Tanduay Padyak Pinoy from San Fernando, La Union to here.

Calderon finished a fighting fifth in the punishing lap ruled by Lloyd Reynante and towed two teammates in the top 20 with Desi Hardin finishing 27th.

Caltex finished second in the stage ruled by Victor Espiritu's Wow Magic Sing, but its time of 10 hours, 20 minutes and 21.510 seconds was enough to unseat Cossack and give it a 10-minute advantage overall.

Cossack, with skipper Renato Sambrano battling cramps on both legs all lap, could only turn in the fourth best time for the day.

Vellum, the team favorite who lost captain Frederick Feliciano to a dislocated collar bone in the Laoag-to-San Fernando stage on Wednesday, dropped to sixth in the race.

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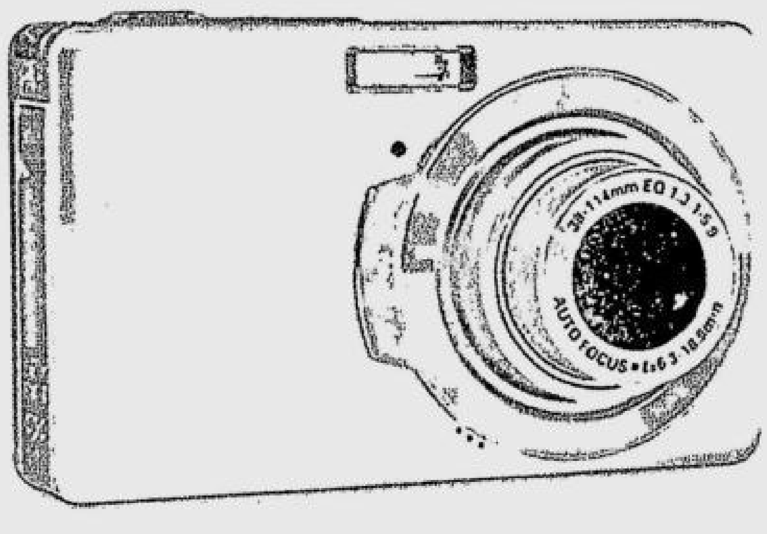

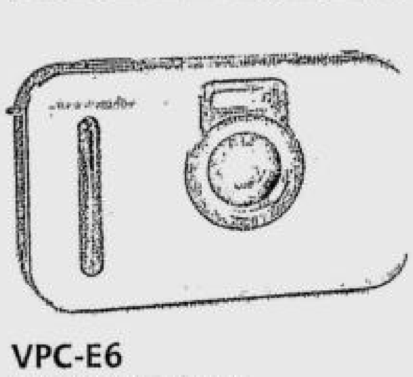

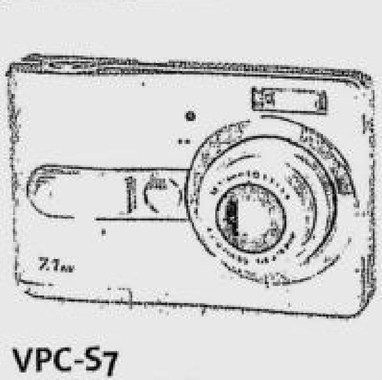

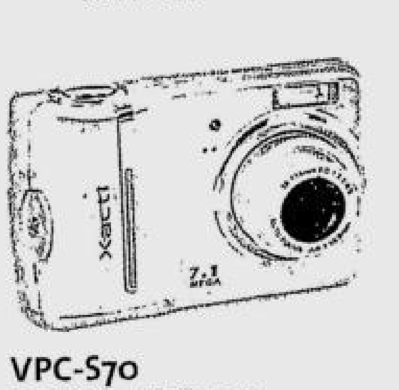

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Sealers seize q'final bonus

Henkel rips Dazz; Harbour on top

By Jasmine W. Payo

HENKEL SISTA CLINCHED A QUARTERFINAL bonus even as Harbour Center regained a piece of top spot with impressive victories yesterday in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

Henkel cruised to an 87-73 victory over Dazz 'Sang Patak as the Super Sealers wrapped up their elimination campaign with a 6-6 record and the first twice-to-beat quarterfinal incentive.

Already in the semifinals with Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala, defending champion Harbour blasted San Miguel-Magnolia, 96-67, despite a so-so debut by Fil-Am Nicolas Stephens.

A beefy 6-foot-4 forward from Holy Names University in California, Stephens nailed only one of six attempts to finish with three points, eight rebounds and one block in 16 minutes of action.

The Batang Pier, who led by 30 points in the last quarter, tied the idle Moneymen at 9-2 with Chico Lanete presiding over their sizzling offensive with 22 points.

Toyota Balintawak (5-6) and Burger King (4-7) will duke it out for the remaining quarterfinal incentive even as San Miguel-Magnolia and Dazz, both at 3-8, collide in a knockout match for the last slot in the next round.

Ryan Reyes, the Fil-Am point guard who keyed Sista's turnaround from a 0-4 start, collected 11 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and two steals.

The Sealers opened the game with a 27-12 spurt and all but clinched the victory with a 68-48 advantage after three quarters.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—Burger King vs Toyota Balintawak
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala
4 p.m.—Dazz 'Sang Patak vs San Miguel-Magnolia

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 96—Lanete 22, Intal 17, Araña 12, Duncil 10, Belga 6, Alonzo 6, Gamboa 5, Vergara 5, Stephens 3, Capati 3, Asoro 2, Fernandez 2, Gaco 0.

SAN MIGUEL-MAGNOLIA 67—Chan 17, Barcellano 12, Custodio 11, Raneses 9, Villanueva 9, Doruelo 3, Sorongon 2, Jones 2, Evangelista 2, Benitez 0, Natividad 0, Angeles 0.

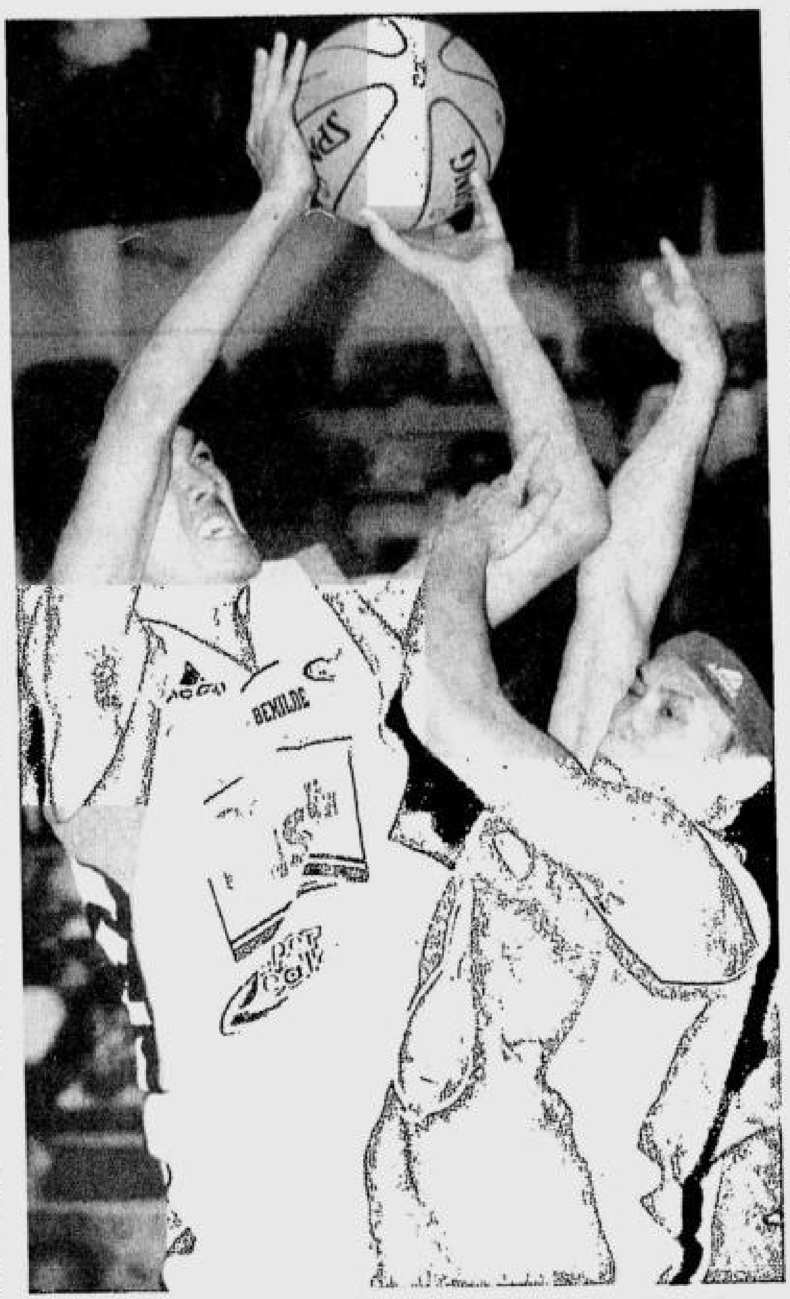
Quarters: 23-17, 40-33, 64-45, 96-67

Second Game

HENKEL SISTA 87—Malabanan 15, Javier 13, Bauzon 12, Reyes 11, Matias 6, Eman 6, Saldua 6, Alfad 6, Bonus 4, Misa 4, Robles 2, Ebuen 2, Orbeta 0, Yambao 0.

DAZZ 73—Sanz 12, Mercado 10, Rodriguez 10, Juntilla 7, Butel 7, Almacin 6, Hugnatan 5, Cenita 4, MoreñO 3, Bucao 2, Raymundo 0, Omandam 0, Labagala 0.

Quarters: 27-12, 51-27, 68-48, 87-73



A DRIVING Lawrence Bonus of Henkel Sista draws a foul from Dazz 'San Patak's Mark Moreno during yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

Bosco eleven upsets QCFA

TULOY SA DON BOSCO PLAYED THE SPOILer's role to the hilt and stunned QCFA, 4-3, last weekend in the 2nd MPLFA Premier League at the San Beda Alabang football pitch in Muntinlupa City.

Composed of priests and street kids, the Don Bosco booters, who also surprised favored HSBC, 5-4, two weeks ago, booked their second straight win to end up with a 2-2 win-loss slate in Group 2 of Division 2.

QCFA dropped to second at 3-2, paving the way for Indonesian FC to top the group with three wins, 1 loss and 1 draw and advance to the division finals.

Loyola, which completed a four-game sweep with a 5-0 shutout of Altas last May 13, emerged Group 1 topnotcher and will be the other finalist.

In Division 1, Inter Manila won by default over Pitufo and bagged top spot in Group 2 with their fourth win in a row.

The squad will be up against the winner of the game between Muntinlupa and last year's champion Manila Soccer Academy tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Muntinlupa is running first in the group with a 3-0 record while MSA is second at 2-1.

Smart-Petron elite taekwondo tourney May 27

THE BEST JINS IN THE COUNTRY TAKE CENterstage on Sunday when they compete in the 2007 Smart-Petron Philippine Elite Taekwondo Championships at the Rizal Memorial coliseum.

"This gives our top athletes the opportunity to improve their skills to world-class level and set new standards in the different categories of competition," said Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado.

Only the best jins from 16 regions and the NCR who are members of the Blackbelt Brotherhood-Sorority and the Philippine Taekwondo Contingents are eligible to vie for honors.

Aventajado and organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong expect future national athletes and leaders of the taekwondo community to emerge from the upcoming event.

"With this event, these elite athletes would be able to further hone their skills, learn new techniques and develop camaraderie," said Hong.

This is the third time the elite tournament is being held. Action will start at exactly 9 a.m.

[illegible]

STAGE RESULTS

1. L. Reynante, (AIR21), 2 hours, 30 minutes, 32.93 seconds
2. V. Espiritu, (Wow Magic Sing), 2:30:32.93
3. S. Carrera, (Caltex), 2:31.36.25
4. M. Ramos, (U-Freight), 2:32:23.16
5. J. Calderon, (Caltex), 2:33:02.96
6. S. Barnachea, (Champion), 2:33:09.10
7. R. Hualda, (Wow Magic Sing), 2:33:09.10
8. I. Valenzuela, (Cossack Vodka), 2:34:03.42
9. B. Ravina, (Cool Pap), 2:34:03.42
10. C. Nadyahan, (Caltex), 2:36:27.43
11. R. Sambrano, (Cossack Vodka), 2:36:27.43
12. A. Quirimit, (Mail & More), 2:38:14.04
13. J. Ricafort, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
14. H. Sicam, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
15. O. Rendole, (Cool Pap), same time
16. J. Dias, (Champion), 2:38:58.27
17. J. Tolentino, (Caltex), 2:39:18.87
18. B. Luzon, (Cool Pap), same time
19. G. Apolinar, (Cool Pap), same time
20. A. Benosa, (U-freight), same time

STAGE INDIVIDUAL

1. V. Espiritu, (Wow Magic Sing), 21 hours, 8 minutes, 46.521 seconds
2. B. Ravina, (Cool Pap), 21:09:39.911
3. I. Valenzuela, (Cossack Vodka), 21:10:29.993
4. L. Reynante, (AIR21), 21:10:33.495
5. S. Barnachea, (Champion), 21:11:38.584
6. R. Sambrano, (Cossack Vodka), 21:12:20.313
7. M. Ramos, (U-Freight), 21:12:26.571
8. S. Carrera, (Caltex), 21:13:39.433
9. A. Quirimit, (Mail & More), 21:16:01.266
10. J. Calderon, (Caltex). 21:16:09.252
11. B. Luzon, (Cool Pap). 21:19:01.683
12. E. Atilano, (Cargohaus), 21:19:34.202
13. D. Hardin, (Caltex), 21:19:58.796
14. J. Tolentino, (Caltex), 21:23:15.396
15. A. Calpito, (Bacchus), 21:25:45.735
16. H. Sicam, (Wow Magic Sing), 21:25:54.225
17. E. Obosa, (Bacchus), 21:26:34.201
18. A. Benosa, (U-Freight), 21:26:59.817
19. C. Nadyahan, (Caltex), 21:28:25.717
20. E. Ballezer, (Cossack Vodka), 21:28:54.592
21. G. Apolinar, (Cool Pap), 21:29:51.870
22. M. Aleonar, (Vellum), 21:31:18.154
23. R. Hualda, (Wow Magic Sing), 21:31:54.802
24. H. Mangahis, (Cool Pap), 21:32:45.985
25. N. Guanzon, (U-Freight), 21:32:47.339
26. E. Domingo, (Champion), 21:33:12.674
27. M. Reyes, (Cossack Vodka), 21:33:15.865
28. K. Guinoo, (Vellum), 21:33:58.467
29. A. Miranda, (AIR21), 21:34:13.336
30. F. Alagano, (AIR21), 21:35:06.707
31. D. Cagas, (Bacchus), 21:35:13.822
32. E. Quiñones, (Vellum), 21:37:32.955
33. J. Garillo, (Cargohaus), 21:37:51.027
34. A. Basirgo, (Vis-Min Team), 21:37:56.365
35. J. Ricafort, (Wow Magic Sing), 21:38:38.784
36. J. Barantes, (Mail & More), 21:39:02.153
37. F. Pablo, (Champion), 21:39:02.584
38. B. Lopez, (AIR21), 21:40:56.434
39. R. Martin, (Vellum), 21:41:05.577

OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Caltex, 86 hours, 37 minutes, 53.314 seconds
2. Cossack Vodka, 86:47:53.824
3. Cool Pap, 86:55:10.165
4. Champion, 87:00:10.644
5. Wow Magic Sing, 87:01:02.602
6. Vellum, 87:08:23.750
7. Mail & More, 87:22:28.738
8. AIR21, 87:22:45.094
9. U-Freight, 87:32:03.049
10. Bacchus, 87:40:22.917
11. Cargohaus, 87:51:31.229
12. Vis-Min Team, 89:23:16.541

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PSC trims priority sports to 4

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF CHIEF FUNDraiser Mike Arroyo, the Philippine Sports Commission yesterday decided to cut down the sports disciplines that will be part of the P250 million Olympic training program.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez yesterday confirmed that only boxing, taekwondo, shooting and fencing—where the country has the strongest potential to win the coveted first Olympic gold medal—will enjoy full backing of the program.

Ramirez said the budget will remain the same although there will be fewer sports disciplines that will now share the pie.

Ramirez added he and former PSC chair Butch Tuason recently presented to Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the list of sports disciplines in the program.

Ramirez said Arroyo found the list too big and wanted a lean and mean roster.

"He has a point in the sense that if we really want to win the gold, we must focus on fewer sports," said Ramirez. "And if we look at the list, they are boxing and taekwondo primarily."

The Philippines has won two silvers in boxing through Anthony Villanueva in the 1964 Tokyo Games and Onyok Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta edition.

NINO CANALETA: Flashy last-minute replacement for the injured Tony dela Cruz.

RP five heavy pick vs S'gapore today

RATCHABURI, THAILAND—LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE SINGAPORE national team, opening day opponent of San Miguel-Pilipinas in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Championship Friday, but that shouldn't be a problem.

The Nationals arrived here Wednesday afternoon and are expected to run roughshod over the Singaporeans, noted for their swimmers and dragon boat racers but not for the game Dr. James Naismith invented.

Chot Reyes, the national coach, is not about to take any rival lightly, however, considering the imperative note attached to this tournament, the qualifier for the all-important Fiba Asia Men's Championship set July 28-Aug. 5 in Tokushima, Japan.

Historically, the Seaba tilt, won by the Philippines from 1998 to 2003, marks the return of an all-PBA squad to the international scene three years after the suspension order handed down by the International Basketball Federation also known as FIBA.

After Malaysia beat Thailand in Segamat in the maiden Seaba tournament in 1994, a three-year break followed before Manila hosted the next three editions—defeating Thailand, 90-69, in 1998, Singapore, 74-66, in 1999, and again the Thais, 96-81, in 2001.

The Filipinos made it four in a row by dealing Malaysia a 96-81 loss in Kuala Lumpur in 2003.

With the Philippines under suspension in 2005, Malaysia went on to clobber Indonesia, 98-47, in the title game.

Amateur players had been in the forefront of previous RP team endeavors in the Seaba and Ratchaburi will see the involvement of professional stars for the first time.

SMC-RP drew a bye Thursday, takes on Indonesia on the 26th, Malaysia on the 27th and Thailand on the 28th, with the top two finishers going to Tokushima.

Comprising the Nationals are Mark Caguioa and Jayjay Helterbrand of Ginebra, Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag and Renren Ritualo of Talk 'N Text, Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods, Mick Pennisi and Rico Villanueva of Red Bull, Ranidel de Ocampo of Air21 and Dondon Hontiveros and Danny Seigle of San Miguel Beer. Tony dela Cruz of Alaska, who was injured in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup last week, was replaced by Nino Canaleta of Air21.

Ricky Vargas, chairman of the PBA board, paid tribute to the efforts put up by the Nationals in the Fiba Asia Champions Cup in Tehran where they finished fourth behind Iran, Syria and Qatar, all three fielding import-powered teams.

"Even if our egos are bruised, we had shining moments," Vargas said. "We will pursue our dreams of reaching the Olympics. Our journey to the Olympics begins at Thailand."

PBA commissioner Noli Eala and Ginebra alternate governor Robert Non, also the corporate affairs head of San Miguel, are joining the RP five today.

The Fiba Asia Men's Championship is the qualifying tournament for the Beijing Olympic Games next year.

SPORTSWATCH

Senior golf resumes at Riviera

THE FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SEnior Golfers Inc San Mig Super Dry Beer series 2007 resumes today at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Shotgun tee off time starts at 7:30 a.m. "On behalf of the federation, I would like thank our sponsor as well as our host," FPASGI president Ducky Paredes said yesterday. "At the same time, I would like to welcome all the participants. And may the best guys win." Title sponsor of the monthly series launched last March is San Miguel Corporation's San Mig Super Dry Beer. The Riviera Golf and Country Club's senior chapter headed by Felipe Judan is this month's host. "We are honored to host the third leg," Judan said. The series began last March 16 with the staging of the 18-hole tournament at the Eastridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal. It was followed by another stage on April 26 at the Veterans Golf Club. The series aims to provide federation members and guests more activities and competition.

63 gain World Slasher finals

A TOTAL OF 63 ENTRIES ADVANCED FROM THE qualifying round of the 2007 World Slasher Cup II at the Araneta Coliseum. The first day of the world's biggest derby featured 84 fights the local and international scene. Among those who topped the qualifying round with a score of 2 points each are defending champions Ed Bacud and Ampil Brothers (Sabong Sports Air Assault 3), Boy Marzo (BMRR Shukran), Frank Berin (Mulawin B), Moy dela Cruz (N.T.Farm), Anthony Lim (Lukban 531), Julao Brothers (MTJ Bros. Papa Boy NZR) and Eddie Araneta (Liza Galore). Eight entries scored 1 ½ points while 40 entries scored one point to qualify for the 2-cock semifinals to be held tomorrow. Weight limits for all entries are a minimum of 1.9 kg and maximum of 2.5 kg.

Top foreign cockers due

FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS GEAR UP FOR THE SJC 8-cock International Derby on June 11, 13 and 15 at the San Juan Coliseum. The visitors include famous Sweater man Bruce Barnette, Jeff Hudspeth, Floyd Crowe Graves, Hervy Rubio, Dan Gray, Richard Borris, Richard Lainier, Jerry Douglas, Gene and Tony Batiea of Missisipi, Tom Cooper, Morinubo Taniguchi and Noriaki Morita of Japan, lady cocker Kiana Borovies and his partner Bryan Corkren of Alabama, Joseph Toralba and James Sander of Louisiana, James Campbell, Billy Joe Brown and Jeff Duiane, Jorge Torres and Paul Fassot of California. Host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda said total prize is P5M.

80 fights in Pasay cockfest

AROUND 80 QUALITY FIGHTS WILL BE STAGED today at the Pasay City Cockpit via the Super Clyde and Yce 4- cock derby beginning at 5 p.m. The winners stand to receive a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Charlie Hao, best remembered for winning the first leg of the 2007 World Slasher Cup (in partnership with Gengen Arayata) will host the three-day battle of big time cockers. Meanwhile, the National Cockers Association (NCA) 5- cock derby comes next on May 29 with Vice Gov. Boyet Joson and Elvin Albano as hosts. For information, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816 -6750.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Lodiote Ink (2), Hudson Hawk (7), Kampai (7), Lover Of All (1)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Take Ten (2), Nitty Gritty (5), Divine Diva (3), Carmelita (4)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Anadalei (4), Thereshope (1), Sweet Na Sweet (5), Indnicoftime/Writtenindstars (6), House of Blues (2)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Joletsky (2), Ultra Rose (6), Pride and Joy (1), Sand Peebles (4)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Guided Missile (5), Beat D'heat (6), Smooth Strike (4), Romario (1)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Feverishly (3), Mussy (4), Dark Desert /Midnight king (7), Shutter (5)

Race 7—(Super 6/Quartet/Tri)—Gold Money (9), Guardian (5), King Zach (4), Spark (8), Hakuna Matata (7), Allysa's Choice (1)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bahrain (4), Cool Turner (8), Infinite Passion (7), Wild Orphan (10), Power Dance (2)

Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Nice Legs (5), District Three (4), Arctic Desert (2), Alexis Magic (10), Royal Fleet (6), Flame of the Wind (7)

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2007 PADYAK PINOY : STAGE 7 (Sn Fdo La Union to Baguio City) INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

Rider	Team	Time
REYNANTE LLOYD LUCIEN	AIR21	02H 30'32.93
VICTOR ESPIRITU	WOW MAGIC SING	02H 30'32.93
SHERWIN CARRERA	CALTEX	02H 31'36.25
MERCULIO RAMOS	U-FREIGHT	02H 32'23.16
JOEL CALDERON	CALTEX	02H 33'02.96
SANTY BARNACHEA	CHAMPION	02H 33'09.10
RONNEL HUALDA	WOW MAGIC SING	02H 33'09.10
IRISH VALENZUELA	COSSACK VODKA	02H 34'03.42
BALER RAVINA	COOL PAP	02H 34'03.42
CARLOS NADYAHAN	CALTEX	02H 36'27.43
RENATO SAMBRANO	COSSACK VODKA	02H 36'27.43
ARNEL QUIRIMIT	MAIL AND MORE	02H 38'14.04

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SPORTS

Milan snares 7th crown

ATHENS, GREECE—AC MILAN PRESIDENT SILVIO BERLUSCONI did a lap of honor before the Champions League final against Liverpool. Maybe he knew what was coming.

Italy's former Premier got his hands on the famous trophy again Wednesday after Filippo Inzaghi scored two goals in a 2-1 win in the Champions League final.

It was Milan's seventh European Cup in the 52-year history of the continent's most prestigious soccer competition, and its third appearance in the final in five years.

Flanked by security staff and surrounded by photographers and TV cameramen, Berlusconi walked in front of the Milan fans before the kickoff at the Olympic Stadium, then watched the players warm up.

The match was a repeat meeting of the 2005 final, when Milan tossed away a 3-0 halftime lead to lose to Liverpool on penalty kicks after a 3-3 draw—one of the greatest finals in league history.

This time, Milan needed a chunk of good fortune to get started.

Inzaghi deflected in a free kick by Andrea Pirlo in the final minute of the first half. Then he ended a well-worked move to take Kaka's pass and run clear to shoot past Liverpool goalkeeper Pepe Reina in the 82nd.

"The first goal is a scheme that the coach designed," Inzaghi said of the ball that caromed off his shoulder and into the net. "Sure, you need a little luck, but Pirlo is great at hitting me. The first goal opened up the game, but the second was certainly more beautiful."

Although Dirk Kuyt's header pulled Liverpool within a goal with a minute to go, there would be no extra time and no penalty shootout win for Liverpool. *AP*

I BELONG TO JESUS
22

WHILE his teammates celebrate, AC Milan's Kaka (center) falls to his knees as the Italian side clinched the Champions League title against Liverpool in Athens on Wednesday. REUTERS

PadyakPinoy

SUMMER SHOWDOWN 2007

TEAM - OVERALL STAGE RESULTS
Stage 7 - San Fernando to Baguio City

1.	CALTEX	86h37'53.314"
2.	COSSACK VODKA	86h47'53.824"
3.	COOL PAP The Extra Strength Sports Plaster	86h55'10.165"
4.	Champion	87h00'10.644"
5.	WOW!	87h01'02.602"
6.	VELLUM CYCLES	87h08'23.750"
7.	Mail More	87h22'28.738"
8.	AIR 21	87h22'45.094"
9.	[illegible]	87h32'03.049"
10.	Bacchus	87h40'22.917"
11.	CARGOHAUS	87h51'31.229
12.	VisMin SELECTION	89h23'16.541"

OVERALL INDIVIDUAL - STAGE RESULTS

PL	NO	NAME	TEAM	TIMED	DEFICIT
1	61	ESPIRITU, VICTOR	WOW MAGIC	21h08'48.521"	00h00'00
2	102	RAVINA, BALER	COOL PAP	21h09'28.432"	00h00'39.911"
3	35	VALENZUELA, IRISH	COSSACK	21h10'28.993"	00h01'43.471"
4	81	REYNANTE, LLOYD	AIR21	21h10'33.495"	00h01'46.974"
5	1	BARNACHEA, SANTY	CHAMPION	21h11'38.584"	00h02'52.063"
6	31	SAMBRANO, RENATO	COSSACK	21h12'20.313"	00h03'33.792"
7	71	RAMOS, MERCULIO	U-FREIGHT	21h12'26.571"	00h03'40.050"
8	52	CARRERA, SHERWIN	CALTEX	21h13'39.433"	00h04'52.911"
9	41	QUIRIMIT, ARNEL	MAIL & MORE	21h16'01.266"	00h07'14.744"
10	51	CALDERON, JOEL	CALTEX	21h16'09.252"	00h07'22.731"
11	101	LUZON, BERNARD	COOL PAP	21h19'01.683"	00h10'15.162"
12	91	ATILANO, EMELITO	CARGOHAUS	21h19'34.202"	00h10'47.681"

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Oden, Durant make US quintet

GREG ODEN AND KEVIN DURANT are headed to USA Basketball camp. LeBron James' summer plans still seem up in the air.

The United States added eight players to its roster Wednesday, highlighted by the college stars who figure to be the top two picks in the NBA draft.

"To show that they already have this commitment to playing for the United States at this age is terrific," US coach Mike Krzyzewski said during a conference call. "Hopefully they'll play many, many years for the United States."

Jason Kidd, Carlos Boozer, Deron Williams, Mike Miller, Tayshaun Prince and Tyson Chandler also were invited to Las Vegas for training camp in July, a month before the Americans will try to qualify for the 2008 Olympics.

James, one of the team's captains, has called himself only "50-50" to join his teammates in the tournament because his girlfriend is expecting a baby next month and he wants to rest.

Colangelo also said Phoenix star Amare Stoudemire called Krzyzewski on Tuesday to confirm his participation. Stoudemire, who had two knee surgeries last year, seemed hesitant to play after the Suns' season ended.

The Americans will gather for training camp from July 20-22, with a blue-white game on the last day. The roster will be trimmed before the team returns to camp in August.

The Americans are also getting back Kobe Bryant, Chauncey Billups and Michael Redd, who couldn't play last summer. *AP*

KEVIN Durant (left) and Greg Oden. AP

Magic sack coach Hill

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—BRIAN HILL WAS fired as coach of the Orlando Magic on Wednesday, the Orlando Sentinel reported, saying the National Basketball Association club dumped him despite two years remaining on his deal.

The Magic finished 40-42 and reached the NBA playoffs for the first time in four years, but Orlando was swept out by the Detroit Pistons in the first round.

The newspaper reported that Magic general manager Otis Smith "expected" Hill to return but noted Hill was frustrated with his role and often criticized by fans hungry for a winner.

Hill, 59, guided the Magic to their only NBA Finals appearance in 1995, but was fired in 1997. Hill was 76-88 in his second stint as coach of the Magic.

Orlando has gone through four coaches and struggled to a 303-353 record since Chuck Daly resigned as coach in 1999. *AFP*

NBA on TV Today
Eastern Conference Game 2
8 a.m. – Cleveland vs Detroit

Que 4 shots behind leader in Seoul

SEOUL—ANGELO QUE SHOT A FOUR-under-par 68 to trail South Korea's Bae Sang-moon by four strokes at the start of the SK Telecom Open on Thursday.

Tony Lascuña matched par 72 but the two other Filipinos in the field, Antonio Murakami and Gerald Rosales, struggled to rounds of 75 and 77, respectively.

Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza opened with a 76 in the first round of the Mitsubishi Diamond Cup in Ibaraki, Japan.

The 20-year-old Bae took advantage of the calm conditions in the morning to take a one stroke lead over compatriots Kim Hyung-tae and Jun Tae-hyun.

Thai Panuwat Muenlek posted a 66 for joint fourth spot with Korea's Kang Sung-hoon. *Asian Tour News.*

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Ardina gifts RP big title double

DOTTIE ARDINA CLOSED WITH A ONE-over-par 73 to win the individual title by six shots and complete a victory double for the Philippines in the Malaysian Women's Open golf championship in Lankawi, Malaysia yesterday.

The 13-year-old Ardina finished with a 54-hole total of 219 at the tough Datai Bay Golf Club to clinch her third international title this year.

She earlier won the Thailand Juniors crown and the Sabah Amateur Open.

"The key to my victory was I played relaxed golf," said Ardina, who beat Asian Games teammate Anya Tanpinco by six strokes.

Tanpinco wound up with a 225 total after a 78.

Yupaporn Kawinpakorn, the Thai ace who beat Ardina and the other Filipino stalwarts to rule the 2006 Philippine Ladies Amateur Open, struggled with a 76 and settled for third with a 226 aggregate.

Ardina earlier teamed up with fellow Junior World champion Cyna Rodriguez to secure the team championship for the Philippines. The team event was played for 36 holes.

Rodriguez, who led in the first round with a 72, bogeyed three of the first four holes and limped home with an 80 that left her in fourth place at 229.

Bayron shows way

Over in Saujana, Jay Bayron, coming off a third place finish in last week's Malaysian Amateur Open, fired a one-under par 71 to lead after the first round of the HLA Saujana Amateur Open at the Palm Course of the Saujana Golf and Country Club.

Other Filipino scorers in the event were Gino Bunyi (73), Anthony Fernando (74) and Ferdie Aunzo and Miko Alejandro, who both carded 76s.

₱1-M Poker Tour qualifying set in Angeles, Tagaytay

THE SATELLITE-QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS for the 3rd Philippine Poker Tour (PPT) Million-Peso Hold'em Championship resume at Casino Filipino venues in Angeles City this Sunday and in Tagaytay City on June 2.

The PPT, the leading proponent of non-wager poker skills tournaments, is holding qualifiers nationwide to select players who will dispute the P1 million prize in the grand finals set July 7 and 8.

Non-qualifiers can also join the finals by paying P33,000 in tournament and registration fees.

PPT chair Rey Gamboa said the tour's satellite-qualifying tournaments is part of their search for local world-class poker talents and of their program to promote poker as a mind game.

Other tournaments are ongoing at the following venues: San Mig Alabang Town Center every Wednesdays and Fridays; and at Elbow Room at MetroWalk in Pasig every Thursday.

For inquiries, log on to www.PhilippinePokerTour.com, or call the secretariat at 812-0153.

14
ATENEO DAVAO

FOOTBALL FESTIVAL: Action in last year's championship match pitting Muntinlupa Football Club and Ateneo de Davao in the 10-under age bracket of the Milo-sponsored First Touch Football Festival. MFC won the title. The third annual tournament kicks off tomorrow at the Army Support Command (Ascom) pitch in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, with scores of teams vying for the title in various age classes. Organized by First Touch Football and the Army Football Club, the tournament is for boys and girls 6 to 18 years old. The event also serves as a culminating activity for the graduates of the recent First Touch Football Summer Clinic, part of the Milo program to help promote sports in the grassroots level.

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Manufacturing output fell 7.6% in March

High costs said to account for weak performance

IN THIS ISSUE

- **RP lags behind** neighbors in e-commerce /B5
- **Perks sought** to promote use of flexi-fuel vehicles /B8

By Michelle V. Remo

OUTPUT OF THE COUNTRY'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR, as measured by volume of production, continued to decline, dropping by 7.6 percent in March from a year ago, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The volume of production index (VoPI) of -7.6 percent in March followed the VoPi of -13.9 percent in February and the -0.4 percent VoPI in January.

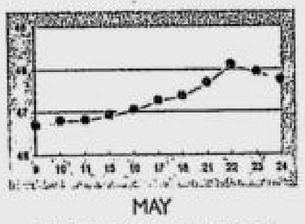
According to the NSO's Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (Missi), the sub-sector that posted the single biggest drop in the volume of manufacturing output was textile. Its production fell 46.4 percent.

Other sub-sectors whose volumes of production fell drastically were tobacco (42.4 percent), footwear and wearing apparel (37.1 percent), non-electrical machinery (35.7 percent), rubber products (16.6 per-

MANUFACTURING/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MAY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P46.24 = $1

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Shares close 0.12% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.12 PERCENT higher in mixed trade, with support provided by investors buying into key blue-chips such as Philippine Long Distance Telephone, dealers said.

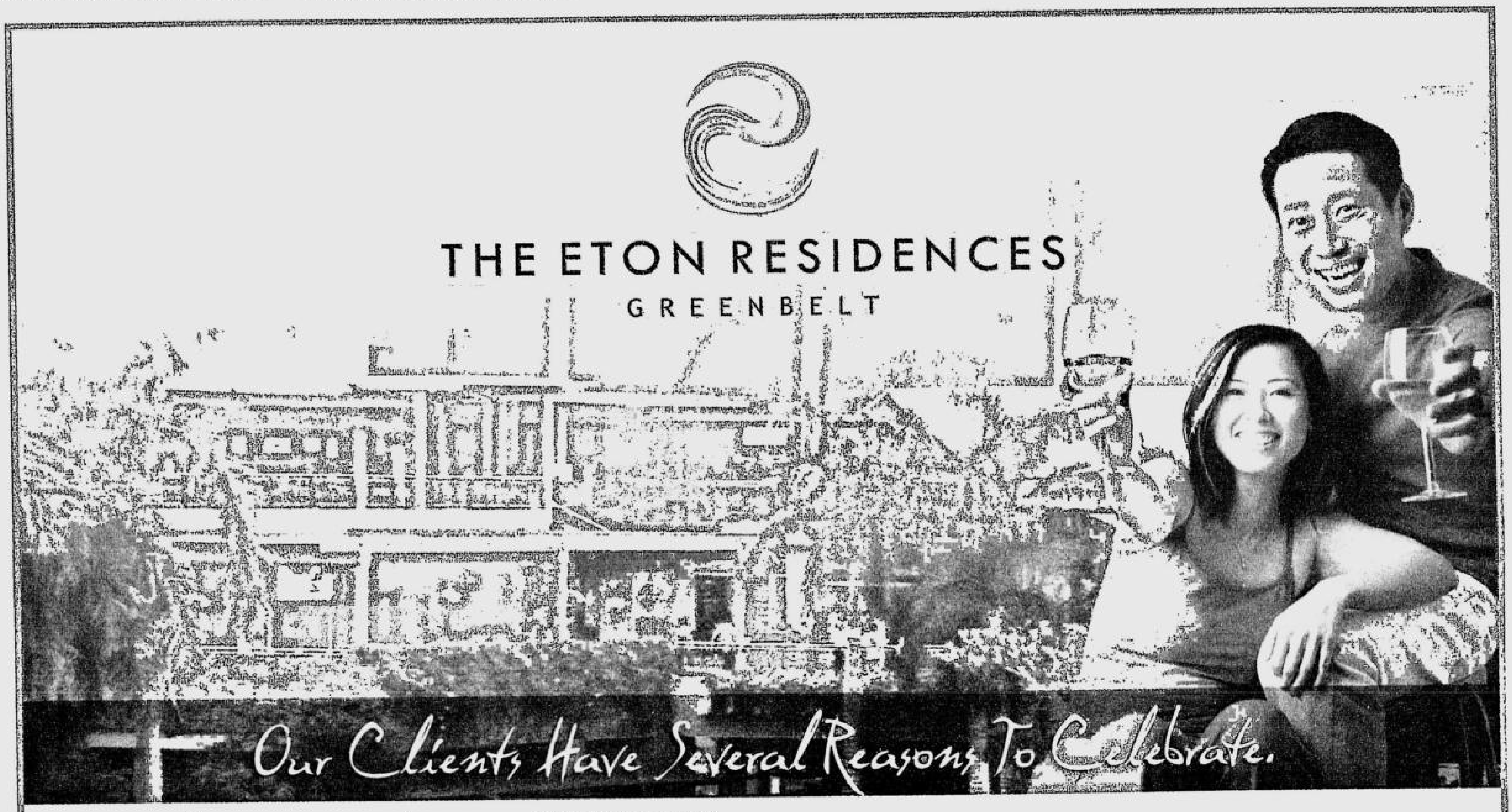
The composite index added 4.21 points at 3,470.77. The broader all-share index rose 6.30 points to 2,227.42.

There were 55 decliners and 49 advancers, while 67 stocks were unchanged.

A total of 4.38 billion shares worth P5.28 billion ($114 million) were traded.

Dealers said investors traded cautiously after US stocks

SHARES/ B2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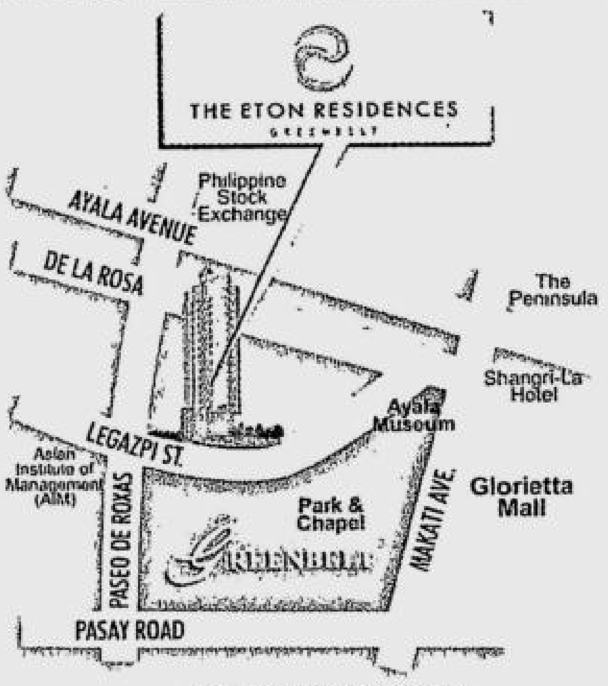

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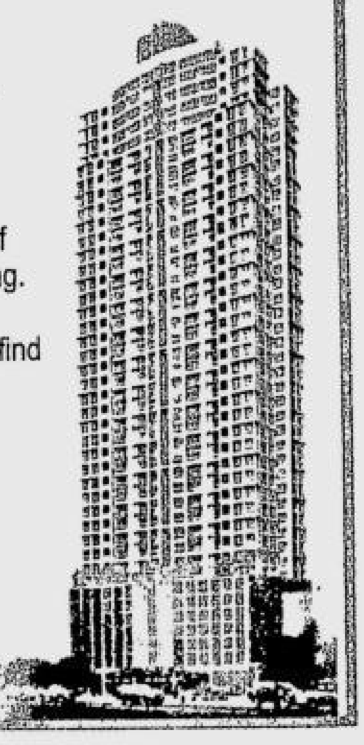

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Gov't subsidy to GOCCs up 67%

State-owned firms received P8.428B in aid

By Michelle V. Remo

ALTHOUGH BENT ON FURTHER reducing the budget deficit, the national government actually spent more in subsidizing state-owned firms from January to April.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that subsidies granted to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs) reached P8.428 billion in the first four months of the year, rising by 67 percent from the P5.042 billion recorded in the same period a year ago.

The national government provides subsidy to state-owned firms that are experiencing liquidity problems.

The authorities have been trying to make the GOCCs less financially dependent on the national government. They hope to attain a balanced budget by 2008.

Records showed that the biggest subsidy, amounting to P2.048 billion, was granted to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

This was followed by the P1.713 billion given to the National Housing Authority, the P1.368 billion to the Technical Livelihood Resource Center, the P1.286 billion to the Land Bank of the Philippines and the P893 million to the Philippine National Railways.

But according to an official from the Department of Finance, the increase in the government's subsidy to state-owned firms was expected, given that the government had to operate on a reenacted budget last year.

Because Congress failed to approve the proposed higher budget for 2006, the government was forced to operate using the budget set in 2005. The official said the reenacted budget meant that the government's spending last year to subsidize GOCCs and GFIs was the same as that of 2005.

The government was not able to accommodate the increase in financial requirements by the state-owned firms last year, the official said. To compensate for the flat budget last year, the government had to increase subsidies this year.

In the case of Landbank, the official said, the subsidy is used to fund the government's comprehensive agrarian reform program (CARP). Landbank serves as the agency that facilitate the distribution of funds for the CARP.

The government has set a target of reducing the budget deficit to only P63 billion this year from P64.8 billion last year.

In order to narrow down the deficit, the government needs to increase revenue collection or trim down other expenditures.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government would boost efforts to privatize state-owned assets to help shore up revenue collection. He said the government intends to sell its stake in San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co. by the third quarter.

The DOF estimated that the government could generate P50 billion from the sale of its 780 million shares in SMC, and another P5 billion from the sale of its 29-percent stake in Meralco.

Hog production seen to rise by 3.5%

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture expects the hog industry to grow by 3.5 percent this year as Philippine meat exports to Singapore, the US, Russia, Japan and other Asian countries are likely to increase.

From 1.84 million metric tons in 2006, the DA projects hog production to reach 1.905 million metric tons for 2007.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said in a statement that, aside from frozen meat, the DA sees eight processed meat items to start penetrating the global market this year.

This is largely due to the fact that the country is moving closer to being declared totally free of the foot-and-mouth disease by the Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE), or Animal Health Organization.

The processed meat items include luncheon meat, spam, pork and beans, lechon paksiw, pork adobo, sisig, chili con carne and bistik tagalog.

"Singapore is willing to accept Philippine exports of fresh frozen meat, subject to certain conditions, which are being work out," Yap said.

He added that the DA is now eyeing Japan, which imported a total of 1.32 million metric tons of meat in 2005.

Japan is the world's top meat importer.

Aside from Japan and Singapore, the DA will also help meat exporters break into the lucrative markets of the US, Russia, Mexico, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and the European Union.

While the palay subsector is on top of the DA's list of agricultural commodities in terms of output, the hog industry has the highest value in terms of production, making it the No. 1 contributor to the farm sector.

Yap noted that every ton increase in the value of production of hogs is equivalent to P68,750, while every ton increase in palay production is only equivalent to P10,000.

The hog industry contributed 14.26 percent to the total value of agriculture, ranking second to palay, with 18 percent, in 2006.

This industry also contributes about 39 percent of the country's total livestock production, with gross output value pegged at P126.5 billion last year.

IC backs insurance firms' equal taxation call

THE INSURANCE COMMISSION has echoed the call of insurance firms for the government to implement equal taxation on all financial instruments.

According to Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo, the complaint of insurance companies on heavy taxation against their products is valid. This makes insurance policies more expensive than other investment instruments, and therefore less accessible to the public.

"We (Insurance Commission) are in favor of leveling off and harmonizing taxation for all financial instruments," she said. "Currently, insurance is taxed more heavily than bank products."

Escobillo noted that bank deposits per se are not subject to tax; only interest on income from bank deposits are taxed. On the other hand, insurance premiums are levied a 5-percent premium tax, and that income from interest earned from investments of premiums collected are also subject to tax.

"To rationalize taxation, the government could either reduce taxes on insurance or increase taxes on banks," Escobillo said. "But our preference is for taxes on insurance to be reduced."

The insurance industry has long been calling for tax reliefs, saying heavy taxation was the reason insurance has not been popular in the Philippines as it is in neighboring countries.

Currently, the industry said, only 12 percent of the country's population has insurance. *Michelle V. Remo*

PHILIPPINE BPO/IT- SERVICES FORECAST

EMPLOYEES	2004	2005	2006	2010
Contact Center	64,000	112,000	160,000	331,000
Back office	15,000	22,500	36,000	299,000
Medical transcription	4,000	5,500	7,000	122,000
Legal transcription	300	450	675	2,764
Other data trans	2,000	3,000	4,000	13,000
Animation	3,000	4,500	6,500	41,000
Software Dev't	10,000	12,000	16,000	75,000
Engineering design	2,000	2,800	4,400	21,000
Digital content	200	500	1,000	16,000
WORKFORCE	100,500	163,250	237,175	920,764

(SOURCE: BOI-CICT-BPA/P)

BPO revenues expected to grow threefold by '10

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of two parts)

SIGNS OF A MATURING CALL center sector are even more compelling when viewed in terms of revenue contribution.

According to the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BPAP), the BPO industry's revenues are expected to grow almost threefold to $12.1 billion by 2010 from the end-2006 level of $3.45 billion.

At the end of 2006, however, call center firms continued to bring in the bulk of revenues from foreign clients, contributing over 77 percent of the industry's sales.

'Maturity means death'

In 2010, BPAP estimates that call center revenues would hit $5.29 billion—still a significant 97-percent growth rate over three years. But by then, that would represent only less than 45 percent of BPO industry revenues.

Taking the place of contact centers as high growth sectors would be back office services, medical transcription and software development, all of which would grow faster in terms of revenues and headcount, according to BPAP data.

Clearly, the call center business is getting crowded and will continue to be so, spelling trouble for smaller firms which rely on generic service offerings.

"If you don't differentiate, you'll get [industry] maturity, and maturity means death," Accenture's country managing director Beth G. Lui said.

Unique selling proposition

Accenture's outsourcing group chief executive Kevin M. Campbell said that there would always be room in the outsourcing business for firms that could provide cheap and basic call center services. He made it clear, however, that the growth and earnings potential lies with companies that can offer a unique selling proposition through value-added services.

"In any industry where you have high growth, you have commoditization," he said.

One such firm trying to move up the so-called value chain is publicly listed IPVG Corp., which runs its own contact center business, among others.

Already, its IP Converge Data Center Inc. unit is capitalizing on the growing need to move away from traditional call center activities like order-taking for fast-food services and help desks for electronics vendors.

Recently, IP Converge teamed up with US-based Saleforce.com to provide local firms with software that would allow them to engage in customer relations management.

Age-old rule

The company said that the "value-added" feature would allow users to customize their services for individual clients, rather than simply offer the generic and impersonal service common to many call centers today.

"Companies are now more interested in business solutions that adhere to unique processes, operate seamlessly with legacy equipment and still deliver a high return on investment," IP Converge president Rene Huergas said.

Indeed, for firms in the thick of the call center business—or those still thinking of joining the industry—the age-old rule of Darwinian evolution apparently holds true: Adapt or die.

Manufacturing . . .

From page B1

cent), and electrical machinery (13.4 percent).

The drop in manufacturing output, however, could have been steeper if not for the higher outputs posted by the following sub-sectors: wood and wood products (39.8 percent), furniture and fixtures (11.8 percent), and non-metallic mineral products (9.9 percent).

The manufacturing industry said its weakening output performance was a natural consequence of the many hurdles to competitiveness, which the Philippine economy faces, in terms of ensuring viability of businesses.

Donald Dee, a member of the Competitiveness Council and chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said the negative effects of globalization have been felt most by the local manufacturing sector, which he said was seriously challenged by the high cost of doing business.

"Because of high cost of manufacturing, in some cases, it has become cheaper to import goods than produce locally," Dee said.

The biggest problem confronting manufacturers was the high cost of power in the Philippines, which he said remained the second most expensive in the region after Japan.

Analysts have identified the economy's growth drivers as those that are not dependent as heavily on electricity as the manufacturing sector, such as the business process outsourcing (BPO).

Dee said other factors—which he referred to as "inefficiencies in the economy" that makes importing cheaper than manufacturing—are high transaction cost and poor infrastructure.

The National Economic and Development Authority earlier said the government was conducting a review of the Missi, saying the declining trend in manufacturing output needed to be double-checked.

The Neda said there might be a need to update the samples used by the NSO in conducting the Missi, and so the results of the survey might be grossly understated.

But Dee said that the industry found the Missi to be credible, as many manufacturers indeed suffered declines in output.

The Missi also reported that manufacturing output as measured by the value of production index (VaPI) hit -5.2 percent. VaPI measures output in terms of prices and is therefore partly influenced by the producers price index (PPI).

PPI is the increase in factory prices of domestically produced goods. PPI stood at 2.6 percent in March from a year ago.

Also, value of net sales of the manufacturing sector was up 5.1 percent, while volume of net sales increased 1.7 percent.

Average capacity utilization rate, which measures how much of the manufacturing sector's production capacity was actually used, stood at 79.3 percent, lower than the 80 percent recorded in February.

Shares close . . .

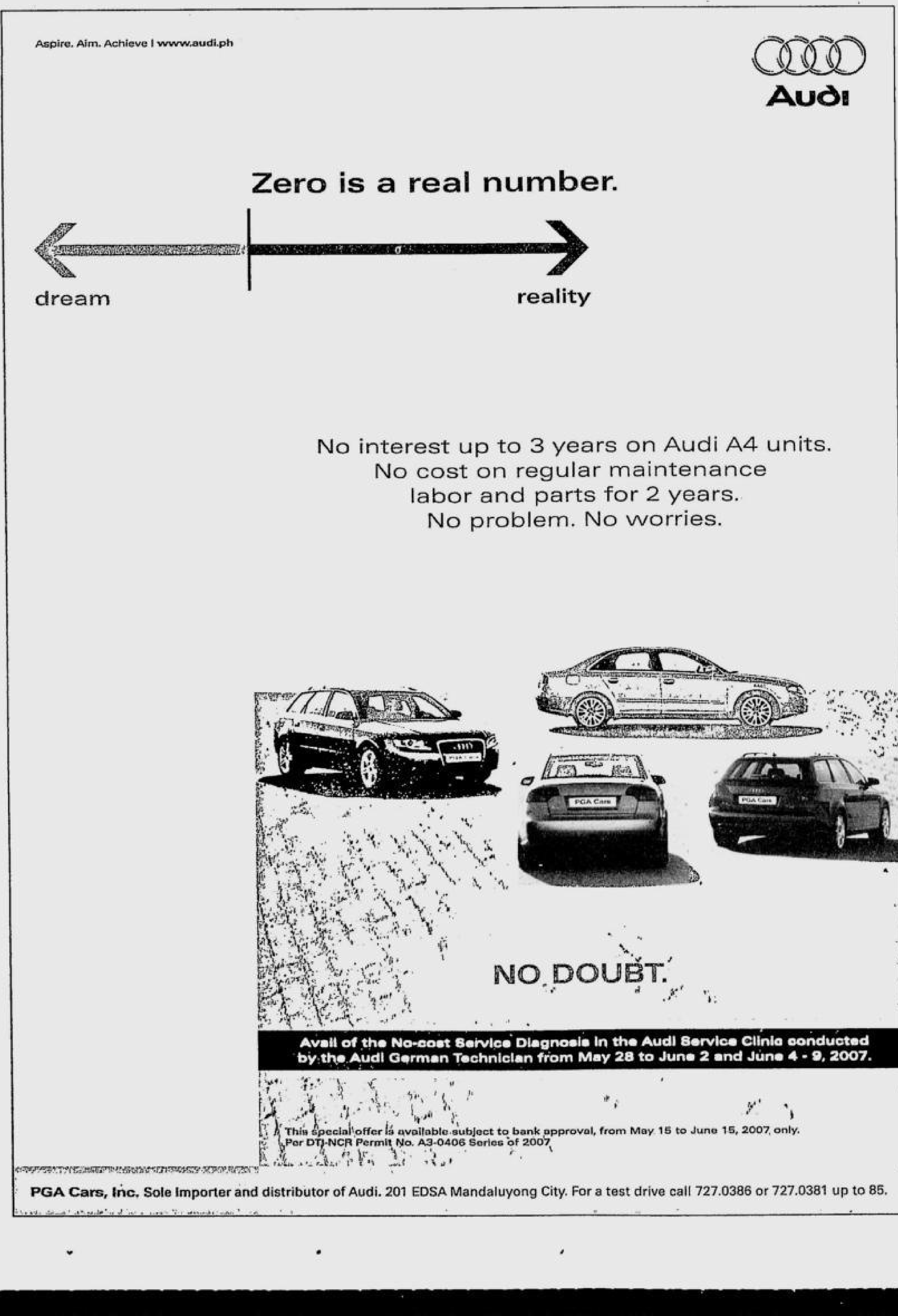
From page B1

fell overnight Wednesday, following former US Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan's reported comments that China's stock market could eventually see a sharp decline after its recent record run.

Top-traded PLDT rose P20 to P2,490, tracking gains in its American Depositary Receipts overnight.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust was down one peso at P67, and Ayala Land fell 25 centavos to P15.50.

San Miguel A shares rose P2 to P69, while its B shares advanced P3.50 to 78.50. *AFP*



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BIR posts ₱130B in collection from big corporate taxpayers

Rise due to higher earnings, tight monitoring scheme

By Michelle V. Remo

TAXES COLLECTED FROM LARGE COMPANIES rose in the first four months of the year from year-ago level due mainly to increased corporate earnings and the Bureau of Internal Revenue's tighter audit schemes.

In its preliminary report, the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) unit of the BIR said it had collected P129.71 billion in the first four months of the year, up by almost P6 billion from year-ago's P123.75 billion.

In April alone, taxes collected by the LTS hit P46.15 billion, higher by P2.5 billion than the P43.62 billion posted year-ago.

As defined by the National Internal Revenue Code, a large taxpayer is one whose net worth is at least P300 million and who pays an annual withholding tax of at least P1 million, value added tax of at least P100,000 for any quarter, and P1 million in excise tax for the preceding taxable year.

Large taxpayers are required to pay taxes directly to the BIR's national office in Quezon City for better monitoring. They are also obliged to use the BIR's electronic filing and payment system in complying with their tax obligations.

There are about 1,000 companies covered by the LTS.

Nestor Valeroso, head of the LTS, said in a statement that his office was already implementing measures to better detect deficiency in tax payments to help ensure it meets its revenue collection goal.

The LTS was tasked to collect P468.84 billion in taxes for the entire year, representing 61 percent of the BIR's total tax collection target of P765.859 billion for 2007.

The target collection by the LTS this year is 18 percent higher than its collection last year of P397.594 billion.

Valeroso said the LTS was already making a list of large companies whose tax payments in the first four months were lower year-on-year. Those in the list would be the initial targets for tighter audits intended to detect tax delinquency.

"This can be done by segregating companies per industry. (Specifically) We compare income tax payments with the initial benchmarks," Valeroso said.

Valeroso was referring to benchmarks per industry on the percentage share of taxes paid to total sales made. Under the "benchmarking" method of tax audit, any firm whose ratio of tax payment over sales fall substantially below the industry benchmark would be subjected to investigation.

The LTS was hoping the implementation of several audit schemes would help the BIR meet its total tax collection for the year.

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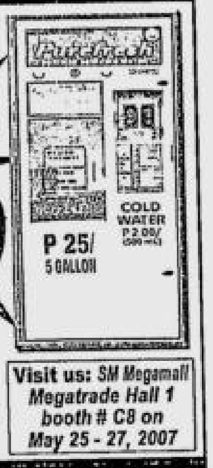

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.90079	1.84856
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3981	1.3962

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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UNIT PRICES (in Php)	May 21, 2007	May 11, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.279173	1.277835
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Equity Fund	1.734795	1.677504

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The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN :
BALANCED FUND, INC. :

- Registrant -

SEC - CFD ORDER No. 093
Series of 2007

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and application to act as an investment company together with the other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of **FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN BALANCED FUND, INC.**, the Commission, in its meeting of May 10, 2007, resolved to approve the application of said corporation to act as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its One Hundred Million (100,000,000) common shares in accordance with the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let a copy of this **ORDER** be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from the date of this ORDER. The subject company is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this **ORDER**.

SO ORDERED.

May 18, 2007, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

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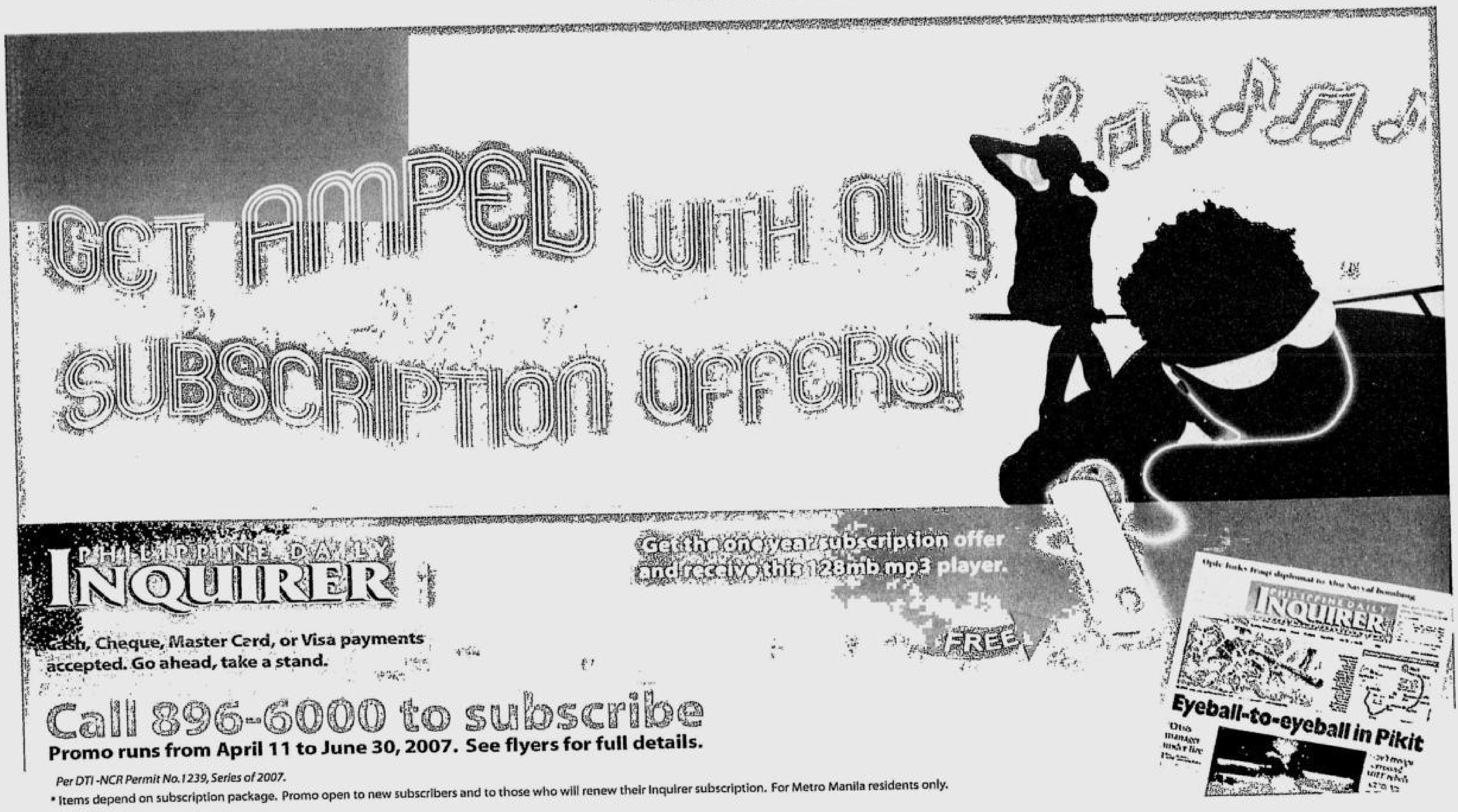
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Cebu Pacific plans listing

IPO to help fund fleet expansion

CEBU PACIFIC, THE PHILIPPINES' biggest budget airline, is considering an initial public offering later this year to help fund an aggressive fleet expansion.

CebuPac president Lance Gokongwei said in a briefing yesterday that the group would acquire 14 ATR-72-500 planes in a $250 million plus deal, on top of existing plans to more than double its fleet capacity at a cost of $1.3 billion by 2013.

"We are considering an IPO before the end of the year," said Gokongwei, adding that he had six orders for the ATRs and a further eight purchase options.

Cebu Pacific, a unit of conglomerate JG Summit Holdings Inc., has grown rapidly since launching in 1996. Its domestic traffic grew over 50 percent last year, while the entire industry saw a 25-30 percent increase.

The country's second-largest airline after flag carrier Philippines Airline, Cebu Pacific has benefited from an improving domestic economy which has seen more Filipinos opt for air travel to crisscross the archipelago and the region.

A large diaspora of overseas workers also provides a large customer base and Cebu Pacific has said it expected its total passenger traffic to reach 5 million this year from 3.5 million last year, rising to 10 million in 2013.

Gokongwei did not give any details about the possible IPO, but analysts said the company would likely benefit from the surge in sentiment towards equities in the Philippines with the stock market hitting an all-time high earlier this week.

"It is not going to be a perfect sort of offering because you have concerns, we have concerns about some fundamentals, possibly the pricing but I think because of the market's bullish state right now, they can ride on with the bullish sentiment," Jose Vistan, analyst from AB Capital Securities, said.

Cebu Pacific competes with Singapore's low-fare airline Tiger Airways and Malaysia-based AirAsia, Asia's largest budget airline.

The airline currently flies to 20 domestic and seven regional destinations, including Bangkok, Hong Kong and Singapore. On board, flight attendants encourage passengers to sing songs and take part in games for small prizes.

Its fleet of 14 Airbus aircraft has an average age of less than one year. Gokongwei has previously said the group would order up to 20 Airbus A320 planes to expand its regional and domestic routes.

The airline's local business contributes about two-thirds of total revenue and capacity while the rest is taken up by its regional business. Gokongwei has said regional revenues should grow 50 percent in five years.

Reuters

SM Prime considers ₱2-B loan

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Doris C. Dumlao

MALL BUILDER SM PRIME HOLDings Inc. of Henry Sy Sr. is considering the possibility of borrowing P2 billion from banks to partially fund its aggressive mall expansion this year.

Sources said yesterday that the SM Group had received a proposal from Metrobank investment banking arm - First Metro Investments Corp. (FMIC) - to raise P2 billion through a private placement.

A private placement is a direct offer of debt, equity or hybrid securities to a limited number of investors.

SM Prime president Hans Sy earlier said the company would spend P35 billion over the next five years to put up new malls and upgrade existing ones.

For this year, SM Prime has lined up the completion of two malls, one in Taytay, Rizal and Muntinlupa City.

It will also expand malls in Cebu City, Pampanga and Fairview in Quezon City.

Also up for expansion is the SM Mall of Asia to include the "Esplanade Sunset Strip."

SM Prime recently opened a new mall in Bacolod City.

For next year, the company will focus on areas outside Metro Manila, with malls to open in Tarlac, Naga, Calamba and Baliwag, Sy said.

SM Prime derives about 60 percent of its revenue from Metro Manila operations and 40 percent from malls in the provinces. It has 28 malls to date.

Sy had said the company had been acquiring land in the provinces for the expansion program.

He added that the Sy family was in the final stages of the study on whether to fold into SM Prime its three malls in China.

"By the second half, we can come up with a decision on what's going to be done," he said.

SM Prime earlier obtained shareholders' approval to increase its capital to P20 billion from P10 billion.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2007-005-g

BIDDING FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF TWO (2) LOTS MALE AND FEMALE OFFICE UNIFORMS FOR THE PHILHEALTH CENTRAL AND REGIONAL OFFICES CY 2007

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006 and continuing appropriation of 2007, intends to apply the sum of PhP3,008,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract to be bid for the Procurement of Two (2) Lots Male and Female Office Uniforms for the PhilHealth Central and Regional Offices CY 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders who can comply with the following specifications:

A. LOT 1 (Female Uniforms)

a. Budget

The budgetary allocation for the most recent count of entitled female employees are as follows:

Location	Budget	Coverage
Central Office & NCR Group	Php 1,096,000.00	274 female employees @ Php 4,000.00 each
	64,000.00	16 female PRO reps @ Php 4,000.00 each
Regional Offices	764,000.00	382 female employees @ Php 2,000.00 each (To cover cost of materials only)
Price Ceiling for LOT 1	1,924,000.00	(for 672 female employees)

For LOT 1, the ceiling for the bid price shall be **One Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand pesos (Php 1,924,000.00)**. Bids on LOT 1 in excess of the lot's price ceiling shall be an automatic ground for disqualification of the bidder.

b. Deliverables

1. Central Office and NCR Group

Under Lot 1, the complete set of female uniforms to be supplied for the Central Office and NCR Group shall consist of the following:

SETS	DELIVERABLES (FEMALE UNIFORMS)
1st set	1 light blue blouse, 1 blue skirt
2nd set	1 yellow blouse, 1 brown skirt, with scarf filled with dainty logo prints, 1 black blazer
3rd set	1 maroon blouse, 1 dark blue pants
4th set	1 beige blouse

2. Regional Offices

For the Regional Offices, only the materials (fabric, buttons and zippers) for the same set of female uniforms shall be supplied by the winning bidder.

B. LOT 2 (Male Uniforms)

a. Budget

The budgetary allocation for the most recent count of entitled male employees are as follows:

Location	Budget	Coverage
Central Office & NCR Group	Php 488,000.00	122 male employees @ Php 4,000.00 each
	60,000.00	15 male drivers @ Php 4,000.00 each
	64,000.00	16 male PRO representatives @ Php 4,000.00 each
Regional Offices	442,000.00	221 male employees @ Php 2,000.00 each (to cover cost of materials only)
	30,000.00	15 male drivers @ Php 2,000.00 each (to cover cost of materials only)
Price Ceiling for LOT 2	Php 1,084,000.00	(for 389 male employees)

For LOT 2, the ceiling for the bid price shall be **One Million Eighty-Four Thousand pesos (PhP 1,084,000.00)**. Bids on LOT 2 in excess of the lot's price ceiling shall be an automatic ground for disqualification of the bidder.

b. Deliverables

1. Central Office and NCR Group

Under Lot 2, the complete set of male uniforms to be supplied for the Central Office and NCR Group shall consist of the following:

SETS	DELIVERABLES (MALE UNIFORMS)
1st set	1 white long-sleeved barong**, 1 khaki pants
2nd set	1 beige long-sleeved barong**, 1 brown pants
3rd set	1 green short-sleeved barong, 1 dark grey pants
4th set	1 light blue short-sleeved barong

***short-sleeved barong for drivers*

2. Regional Offices

For the Regional Offices, only the materials (fabric, buttons and zippers) for the same set of male uniforms shall be supplied by the winning bidder.

Under both **Lots 1 and 2**, the bidder's bid price upon computation must be equivalent to an amount not exceeding the allocated maximum of PhP 4,000.00 per employee in the Central Office, and PhP 2,000.00 per employee in the Regional Offices. Bids computed to be in excess of the allocated maximum amount per employee shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Bidders are required to submit, as part of their technical proposal, two (2) designs for each set of uniforms under their lot/s of interest.

SPECIFICATIONS AND SCOPE OF WORK

For both lots (Lot 1 and 2), the materials to be used shall comply with the specifications approved by the Uniform Committee of PhilHealth, as specifically provided in the "Annex A" of the Terms of Reference which will be shown to the bidders during the Pre-Bid Conference.

Under both lots, the respective supplier/s shall provide the design, supply the fabrics and perform the tailoring work for the uniforms, except those for the Regional Offices to which only the materials shall be supplied. The winning supplier shall also accomplish the following specific tasks:

1. Coordinate the design, fabric and color of the uniforms;
2. Take the measurements of the entitled personnel (Central Office only)
3. Provide one (1) sample for each set of uniforms free of charge to each PhilHealth Regional Office

OTHER CONDITIONS

Bidders shall have the option of submitting a proposal on either lot or on both lots, and evaluation and contract award will be undertaken on a per lot basis. Lots shall not be divided further into sub-lots for the purpose of bidding, evaluation, and contract award.

PhilHealth shall award one (1) contract per Lot or a consolidated contract for both lots, as the case may be. The awardee of the contract shall be the bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid in a given Lot, that is, the bidder with an offer on a given Lot that is most advantageous to PhilHealth, based on the documents submitted as determined by the BAC-GS.

This bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws of regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** at the address below, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from **May 25 to June 1, 2007** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PhP 5,000.00 cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **June 4, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room (Rm. 1106)**, PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor CityState Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room on or before June 18, 2007, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on June 18, 2007, 10:30 a.m. at the OSBAC Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2005 to CY 2006 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required by PhilHealth to be submitted, among other requirements in accordance to R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor CityState Centre
709 Shaw Blvd, Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
e-mail add: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
Facsimile No. 637-4735

(Sgd.) ATTY. VALENTIN C. GUANIO
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI - May 25, 2007)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 24, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.5	10,800
73	42.5	Bank Of The Philippine Islands	70	70	69	70	1,314,100
71	30.5	Banco De Oro Universal Bank	70	70	67.5	69.5	938,300
935	630	China Banking Corp.	910	910	910	910	2,180
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	400
124	60	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	120	120	117	119	97,750
0.63	0.36	Export And Industry Bank, Inc	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	840,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank And Trust Co.	68.5	68.5	66.5	67	5,902,900
55	30.5	Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	17,100
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64	64	64	64	1,100
72	40	Philippine Bank Of Communications	51	51	51	51	200
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	32	33	32	33	2,372,000
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	82.5	84	82.5	84	99,400
66	40.55	Union Bank Of The Philippines	64.5	66	64.5	66	3,478,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
7.7	1.5	Citisecoline.Com Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	310,000
2,000.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,620
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. Of The Phils.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	10,797,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	600	600	595	595	1,160
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	190
1.94	1.04	Ivantage Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.7	1,619,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
63.5	41	First Gen Corp.	59.5	59.5	59	59	427,600
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	79.5	80	79.5	80	459,500
12.75	6.6	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	535,700
96	13	Manila Electric Co. "A"	92	92	90.5	91.5	191,400
97	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	92	92.5	90.5	91.5	2,474,100
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6	6	5.9	6	31,629,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	2,113,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil And Energy Dev't Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.44	3,273,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	159,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.2	2.24	2.16	2.24	423,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26.5	26	26	51,800
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	55	56	54.5	56	325,100
6.9	3.5	Pancake House Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	8,000
1.62	0.69	RFM Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	955,000
4.05	2.3	Roxas Holdings	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2,000,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	67.5	69	67	69	137,500
88	68	San Miguel Corp. "B"	75	78.5	75	78.5	444,300
0.51	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	30,000
22	15.5	Universal Robina Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	2,617,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.7	1.07	EEI Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	4,649,000
4.5	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	118,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	1,790,000
7	1.1	Republic Cement Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	10,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.88	1.76	1.88	9,237,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	7,046,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.55	0.65	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.65	3.7	2,345,500
0.0925	0.022	AJO Net Holdings Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	17,200,000
0.97	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.89	0.91	30,210,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. And Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	372,400,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. And Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	33,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	627,000
0.017	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	469,900,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.5	2,945,000
0.76	0.085	Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
2.26	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.14	2.16	2.1	2.12	4,537,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	520	525	515	520	35,230
14	7.92	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	241,500
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources And Holdings Co. Inc.	4.55	4.65	4.55	4.65	207,000
4.75	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.7	4.55	4.6	34,945,000
9.2	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.7	2,835,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	455,000
3.55	1.14	House Of Investments Inc	3.05	3.05	3	3	71,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	1,178,500
0.43	0.185	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
13.25	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	11.75	12	11.5	11.5	830,600
4.55	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.1	892,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	342,000
0.57	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.52	8,570,000
1.8	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	20,000
445	205	SM Investments Corp.	440	445	440	442.5	183,390
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	20,000
0.67	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.58	0.58	40,410,000
0.85	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	700,000
1.46	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.46	815,000
0.24	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	14,470,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.76	1.84	1.76	1.82	3,169,000
0.58	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	310,000
16	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	32,497,200
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.6	11,562,000
3.9	1.18	C And P Homes Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.65	2,235,000
4.7	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.5	4.5	45,000
4.5	1.42	City And Land Developers Inc	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.4	40,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
0.58	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.53	3,600,000
0.59	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	6,370,000
0.31	0.14	EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,930,000
3.1	0.64	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	85,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.81	8,160,000
0.27	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources And Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.26	0.225	0.25	90,510,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.82	0.83	2,040,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.96	17,682,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	17,000,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	10,000,000
1.8	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	31,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	2,680,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.73	0.73	1,650,000
4.25	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	40,565,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.45	4.5	181,000
0.26	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,620,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty And Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	2,070,000
3.95	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.65	3.85	189,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	20	20	19.75	20	19,044,300
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	4.95	5.1	4.95	4.95	825,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	13,394,700
0.96	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.71	0.73	0.7	0.7	1,040,000
0.28	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.28	0.225	0.27	93,790,000
1.74	0.7	[illegible] Realty Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.21	1.1	1.18	[illegible]
		MEDIA					
32	13.5	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	11,500
1	1	Manila Broadcasting Co.	1	1	1	1	527,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.12	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.56	1.56	2,304,500
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,360.00	1,345.00	1,350.00	347,200
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co	2,485.00	2,510.00	2,470.00	2,490.00	259,410
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.6	7	6.6	7	[illegible]
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	[illegible]
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.9	9	8.5	9	59,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	7.2	7.2	7	7	943,000
0.075	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0725	0.0625	0.0725	73,100,000
0.033	0.011	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	41,000,000
2.9	1.78	Ionics Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	90,000
0.0675	0.038	Island Information And Technology Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	2,000
0.06	0.027	Philweb Com Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	76,400,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.02	2.02	[illegible]
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.82	81,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6	6	5.9	5.9	258,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	29	29.5	28.5	29	[illegible]
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure And Resorts World Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.85	1,261,000
5	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5	5	5	5	45,000
0.73	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.57	0.73	0.57	0.73	48,190,000
1.2	0.47	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.98	1	0.66	0.94	[illegible]
		EDUCATION					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7	2.75	[illegible]	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	15,000
19	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	19	19	19	19	29,000
4.65	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	4.4	4.65	4.4	4.65	6,234,000
16.75	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp	16	16	16	16	618,500
30	9.5	[illegible]	26	26	25.5	26	[illegible]
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining And Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	[illegible]
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,250,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	215,000
21.25	5.6	Atlas Cons. Mining And Dev't Corp.	19.75	20	19.5	19.5	2,883,700
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	34,200
35	20	Benguet Corp. "B"	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	400
4	1.62	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	32,000
2.24	0.0602	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.14	2.18	2.12	2.14	17,021,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	14,520,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	4,260,000
0.038	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	138,100,000
0.041	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	46,000,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.02	841,000,000
6.1	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	6	6	5.8	6	16,721,000
30	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	40,100
0.99	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.8	0.99	0.8	0.99	39,790,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial And Mining Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.52	1.54	[illegible]
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	4,620,000
0.02	0.008	Oriental Pet. And Minerals Corp. "A"	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	418,700,000
0.022	0.009	Oriental Pet. And Minerals Corp. "B"	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.022	5,400,000
25.5	1.5	PNOC Exploration Corp. "B"	23	23	23	23	1,000
14.62	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	25,400
0.024	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	910,600,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

May 24, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.743163	1.000000	46.0000
Japan	Yen	0.006110	0.008222	0.3782
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476367	1.986600	91.3836
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094996	0.127827	5.8800
Switzerland	Franc	0.605428	0.814664	37.4745
Canada	Dollar	0.686651	0.923958	42.5021
Singapore	Dollar	0.485791	0.653680	30.0693
Australia	Dollar	0.613171	0.825083	37.9538
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.971359	2.652661	122.0224
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198166	0.266652	12.2660
Brunei	Dollar	0.484209	0.651551	29.9713
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000115	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022866	0.030769	1.4154
UAE	Dirham	0.202430	0.272390	12.5299
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.345600	61.8976
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.001074	0.0494
China	Yuan**	0.097108	0.130668	6.0107
Argentina	Peso	0.241091	0.324412	14.9230
Brazil	Real	0.383152	0.515570	23.7162
Denmark	Kroner	0.134232	0.180623	8.3087
India	Rupee	0.018454	0.024832	1.1423
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219351	0.295159	13.5773
Mexico	New Peso	0.068827	0.092614	4.2602
New Zealand	Dollar	0.542891	0.730514	33.6036
South Africa	Rand	0.105533	0.142005	6.5322
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022240	0.029926	1.3766

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 23, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of May 23, 2007

RP lags behind neighbors in e-commerce

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY IS LAGGING BEHIND other Asian countries in the use of information technology and the Internet in conducting business since the dot-com boom of the 1990s, according to a government think-tank.

A study of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies showed that the country performed lower in e-commerce activities than Thailand and Indonesia, which started using the Internet at around the same time or even much later than the Philippines. This, it said, resulted in lost trade opportunities for the country.

The study, authored by PIDS senior research fellow Gloria Pasadilla and her associate April Lacson, showed that the Internet had been a great equalizer among small and medium enterprises and big businesses in terms of access to information and revenue opportunities.

"(This is not true for) many Filipinos as only a quarter of an Internet population of 11 million are able to buy products and services online," the authors said.

For the few consumers who transact online, most of their dealings were with e-retailers based in the United States such as Amazon and eBay, Pasadilla and Lacson said.

"The rest are wallowing in not being able to do e-commerce as they do not have credit cards or do not trust credit cards," they added.

"Most business activities are limited to bank-to-bank transfers, cash on deliveries, mobile cash, or just plain hand-over-the-cash-to-the-cashier (method)," they said.

Pasadilla and Lacson warned that unless immediate and appropriate measures were undertaken to encourage the development of e-commerce, Philippine enterprises would continue to lose trade opportunities that the Philippine economy could have captured had it been more swift, focused, and aggressive in improving its technical and human capacities.

"Many would like to tap the opportunities to be able to sell products and accept payments online, but are unable to do so because of the high cost of putting up an e-commerce website," they added.

Also, the study found that the capacity and knowledge of domestic small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to effectively utilize e-commerce is still underdeveloped.

ATS, partners to infuse ₱25M into joint venture

By Riza T. Olchondra

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ATS), THE shipping unit of the Aboitiz group, said its joint venture with two subsidiaries of global shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk group will start operating with P25 million in capital by next month.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ATS said it would fork out P8.25 million for 82,498 shares or a 33-percent stake in the joint venture.

MCC Transport Singapore Pte Ltd. of Maersk will account for almost P10 million to control 99,997 shares or 40 percent.

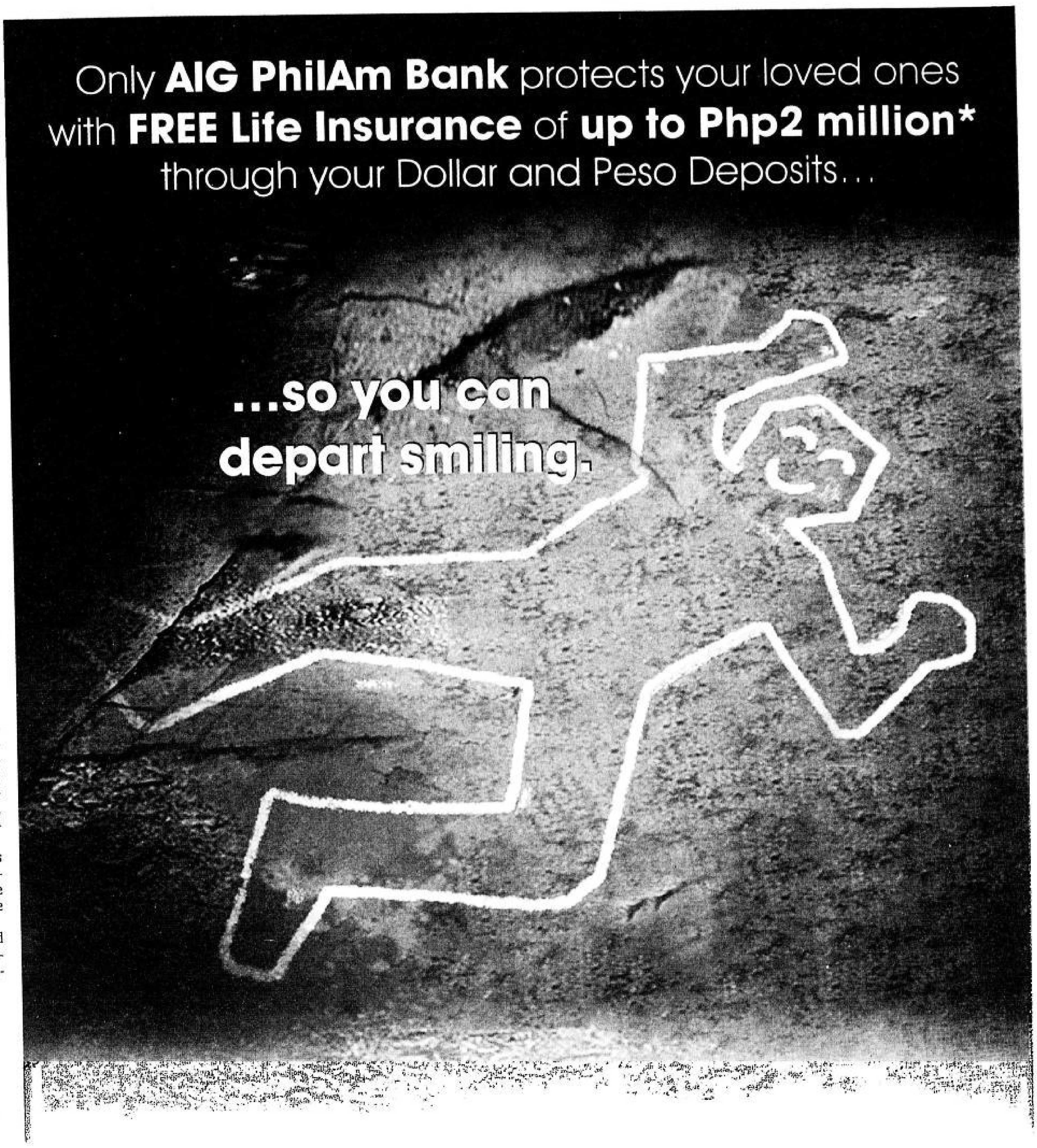
The other Maersk unit, Mercantile Ocean Maritime Co. (Filipinas) Inc., will pay up P6.75 million for 67,498 shares or 27 percent of the company.

MCC Philippines will operate its first 600 TEU container ship in June this year to service the ports of Manila, Cebu and Cagayan. The container vessel is the largest yet to be operated by ATS and will offer regular weekly sailings at very competitive rates.

ATS said the joint venture is expected to boost its container freight business.

The company recently converted unused passage capacity to make room for the growing demand for freight capacity, particularly for its Ro-Ro (roll-on roll-off) service, which now contributes over 12 percent of ATS' freight business.

ATS wants to further grow its freight business while enhancing the earning capacity of vessels through the increase of freight and Ro-Ro capacity. The company also launched its supply chain management services to give clients a wider range of services.



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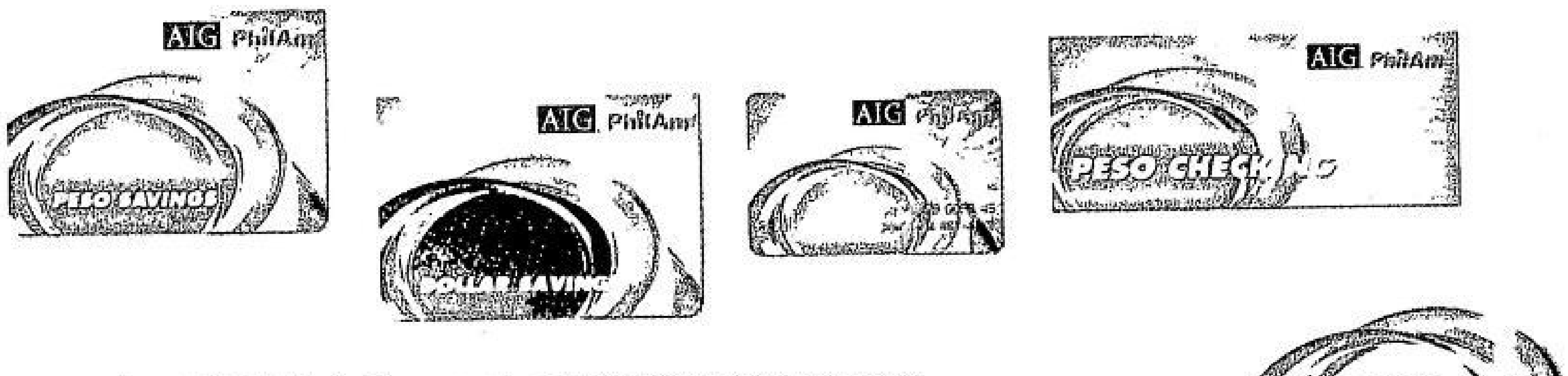

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		329,000	52,145	37,160	29,739	25,744
		399,000	48,669	34,683	27,756	24,028

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NISSAN

BSP's foreign currency swaps hit $8B

Portion of swap funds may be used to build up GIR

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas' foreign currency swaps hit a new high of $8 billion in mid-May from $6 billion in end-2006.

This was attributed to the influx of foreign money from portfolio investors and overseas Filipino workers, a monetary official said.

The BSP has intensified the use of the currency swap scheme so that its heavy dollar purchases would not contribute to the expansion of money supply which, if unchecked, could threaten the country's long-term inflation targets.

The monetary official said the BSP would study the cost of freeing some of the funds now tied to contracts under the currency swap to build up its gross international reserves (GIR) beyond this year's target of $25.5-$26 billion.

"The question is costs. If we transfer the funds to the GIR, we have to get them back using RRPs (reverse repurchase agreements or short-term peso borrowings)," the official said.

The GIR, a key indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy, consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund. As of end-April, the GIR level hit the $25-billion mark.

BSP documents showed that the BSP's outstanding swaps as of end-2005 amounted to only $485 million. The heavy inflows of foreign exchange have made the BSP a heavy buyer of dollars since 2006.

Currency swaps refer to the simultaneous purchase and sale of currencies over a specific maturity date. The BSP buys the dollars and instead of paying the peso equivalent of the foreign currency bought, it issues a contract that matures over a pre-determined period. Upon maturity, the principal amount is swapped again at a predetermined exchange rate.

The scheme, in effect, delays the conversion of the foreign currencies to peso.

The BSP uses the scheme as a monetary tool: it swaps foreign currencies from the spot foreign exchange market to prevent the equivalent peso from pouring into the financial system.

The swaps, which tempers the GIR build-up, are also used to curb the volatility in the foreign exchange market.

The official said it could be an option, for instance, to free up to $2 billion from the swaps and add them to the GIR, and mop up the resulting peso liquidity through the BSP's open market operations.

"The costs may have changed over time. Before, it was cheaper to pay the swap premium, but we're studying whether it's still the same now that we have the tiering system and the (expanded) SDAs (special deposit accounts)," the official said.

Tiering is a system whereby the BSP pays a lower rate to short-term money placed by banks in excess of certain threshold levels. Under the system, only the first P5 billion of money placed with the BSP gets paid with the 7.5 percent overnight borrowing rate. The next P5 billion yields 200 basis points less (5.5 percent) and placements in excess of P10 billion yields 400 basis points (3.5 percent).

The BSP has likewise transformed its SDAs into a more potent monetary instrument, by expanding access to the facility to banks' trust departments as well as to government-owned and -controlled corporations. These SDAs are likewise now considered as eligible to banks' liquidity floor or required cash buffer against heavy withdrawals.

The SDAs are also covered by the tiering system.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ANTENNA SYSTEM
Ref. No. PB070430-PP0065

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *2007 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* intends to apply the sum of **Php 4,915,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PR No. TTSD-07-000045139.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Supply and Delivery of Antenna System. Delivery of the GOODS is sixty (60) calendar days from acknowledgment of approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding* Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from ***May 25, 2007 to June 20, 2007*** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Php 1,000.00.*** The method of payment will be ***Cash.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***June 05, 2007 / 10:00 A.M.*** *at the address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.*
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***June 21, 2007 / 2:00 P.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted:

FORM OF SECURITY	AMOUNT
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 49,150.00
2. Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 73,725.00
3. Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 122,875.00
4. Foreign Government Guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 4,915,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on ***June 21, 2007 / 2:00 P.M.*** at the ***Admin Conference Room same address below.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(Sgd.) RAUL JOSEPH G. SELUDO
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – May 25, 2007)

Result-oriented meetings

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

"OH NO, I HOPE IT IS NOT A D-O-MI," EXclaimed Kasama leader Cita Esmao last week. She did not mean "dirty old man." She meant "died of meetings," because of her frustration with the many meetings she had attended that resulted in nothing.

But when told that it was the regular meeting of the Alyansa Agrikultura council of leaders held every two months with Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, her frustrated sigh turned into anticipation. This is because these meetings always have three important ingredients: actionable recommendations where a yes or no will be given by Secretary Yap, an accountable person assigned from both the farmers and the government sides for each approved recommendation, and a reporting date to check the progress of these recommendations.

The last is probably the most important element in producing results. Knowing the importance we give to credibility and saving face, the "expect-inspect" management technique has been an invaluable aid in producing results. We should be clear about our expectations, then "inspect" the expected performance both during and after the implementation period.

To prepare for the May 22 meeting with the DA, Alyansa leaders met twice to decide on the priority recommendations. They also identified a separate accountable person for each recommendation. Three of the main areas discussed were the supply chain, anti smuggling, and agricultural credit.

Supply chain

Two recommendations from the book "From Seed to Shelf: A Logistical Evaluation of Philippine Agriculture," where Tambuyog Development Center executive director Arsenio Tanchuling was an adviser, were submitted to Secretary Yap for immediate implementation.

The cluster approach using economies of scale in hybrid rice production was recommended for organic rice, especially those using the low-cost System of Rice Intensification (SRI) technology. This would not only maximize the supply chain efficiency for the often forgotten organic rice farmers, it would also show the increased profitability of organic rice for both the domestic and export markets.

The second recommendation was to include private sector logistics experts currently not present in the existing DA Logistics Task Force. The experts would be recommended by farmer and fisherfolk leaders based not only on their logistics competence, but also on their knowledge of rural conditions. This way, the right supply chain decisions will be done on a continuing basis, instead of sporadically.

An important step in combating smuggling is to find out about the smuggled goods even before they arrive.

Gregorio San Diego, United Broiler Raisers Association (Ubra) president, said the inward forward manifest or IFM, which shows what imported good would be arriving, was still not being made available by the Bureau of Customs. Follow-up action was agreed upon so that the DA and the Alyansa could see these IFMs and jointly prevent the entry of smuggled goods.

San Diego said this was especially important for the poultry sector, because it would mean not only avoiding the loss of jobs, but also the loss of lives due to possible Avian Flu entry.

Credit

Today, less than 4 percent of all credit goes to agriculture, on which 70 percent of all our jobs are directly or indirectly dependent. To ensure that at least the viable strategic agriculture projects are funded, the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Acef) was created by law. However, this fund needs a new law to extend its utilization to 2015. While the previous House of Representatives approved such a law, the previous Senate did not because of lack of time.

Aside from working for the passage of this law by the newly elected Congress, it is likewise imperative to have a farmer representative in the body that recommends the utilization of this fund so that small farmer interests are also served.

At the 2002 Socioeconomic Development Summit, it was agreed that this farmer representation be implemented. However, this was not done. The small farmers felt betrayed. In the meeting last Tuesday, Secretary Yap reversed this feeling by appointing Centro Saka executive director Omy Royandoyan to the DA Secretary's Trade Advisory Group (Stag). In this capacity, Royandoyan will not only look at Acef, but also the entire agricultural credit system to improve credit delivery to the small farmer.

Conclusion

The above are some of the priority actions decided on and assigned to point persons from both the Alyansa and DA last May 22. The progress or failure on these actions will be reported during the July 31 regular meeting.

Esmao said, "That was not a DOM (Died Of Meetings), but an Abom (Alive Because Of Meeting) experience. I believe result-oriented meetings with the agriculture secretary like this will bring new life to Philippine agriculture."

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch and former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries, e-mail agriwatchphil @ yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

Insular Life '06 net income rises to ₱1.58B

INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO. LTD. AND its subsidiaries reported a consolidated net income of P1.58 billion in 2006, up by 8 percent from the P1.46 billion a year ago. Parent company, Insular Life, contributed P1.25 billion, higher by 24 percent from year-ago's P1.01 billion.

In his report to policyholders during the company's annual members meeting on May 23, Insular Life chair and CEO Vicente R. Ayllon said the strong performance was delivered by the continued strengthening of the company's balance sheet, increased cash dividends from strategic equity investments, and higher recurring income from fixed income instruments. Also contributing to the higher net income were earnings from real estate investments and cost savings from improved administrative operations.

Consolidated revenue rose to P11.2 billion, 12 percent higher than the P10 billion in 2005, mainly due to strong investment results and higher premium income. Investment income grew 38 percent over the previous year to P4 billion.

Total policy benefits and claims paid during the year amounted to P4.8 billion, of which P917 million represented dividends to individual policyholders.

The company's assets also rose to P48.9 billion, up from the previous year's P43 billion.

Members' equity rose to P10.8 billion from P9.6 billion the previous year.

PNOC unit raises dividend to gov't

PNOC SHIPPING TRANSPORT CORP. (PSTC) has issued a cash dividend of P36 million to the government and its mother company based on a P65.8-million profit posted in 2006. This is so far the highest dividend paid by the company.

The cash dividend, which represents one half of net profit, will be equally shared by the national government and Philippine National Oil Co. The amount is 100 percent more than the dividend paid last year.

Pete Aquino, PNOC president, has received the firm's share of the dividend.

PSTC chair Felix Guanzon said this "reflects our (the company's) healthy financial condition due to competent and judicious management."

Company president Manuel Puey said the firm was expected to pose about P100 million in profit next year, given the two new replacement ships acquired recently.

At present, PSTC's two tankers—MT Antonio Luna and MT Jose Rizal—have long-term contracts with Petron.

PNOC has approved PSTC's acquisition of two double-hulled tankers this year which will be contracted to Petron for 10 years. One of the two ships will be operational by July this year, while the second will come in August.

The PSTC board required that the new ships be double-hulled in compliance with the new safety standards set by the government.

PNOC alternative fuels unit eyes listing

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER SECURING MORE THAN $1 BILLION in investment commitments for the local biodiesel industry, PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) is considering listing its shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In a briefing during the Biofuels and Feedstocks Philippines conference, PNOC-AFC chair Renato Velasco said the planned holding of an initial public offering was already on the drawing board, although there were no concrete plans for it yet.

Right now, he said the company was more concerned about forging final agreements with the various firms that had entered into agreements with it.

PNOC-AFC signed last Wednesday a memorandum of understanding with British firm NRG Chemical Engineering Pte. Ltd., which formalized the company's commitment to invest more than $1.3 billion in the local biodiesel industry.

Prior to this, PNOC-AFC had signed a memorandum of understanding with Korean firm Samsung Corp. for an P8.2-billion jatropha plantation and refinery project. It also disclosed that Sumitomo Corp. of Japan had agreed to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a biofuels central terminal in Bataan.

The IPO, Velasco said, could come later.

"We will do it when we are ready. We could be entering the market by either 2008 or 2009. In spite of the bull run at the local bourse, it is difficult to enter the market unprepared," he said.

"We'd like our stockholders to feel confident that their stocks are safe and that the (internal rate of returns) are good," he added.

He said that should PNOC-AFC push through with the IPO plan, proceeds would be used to bankroll the establishment of refineries, as well as the production of "bio-plastics," using waste products from the biodiesel refining process as raw materials.

As early as now, even if its IPO plans have yet to be finalized, he said former Energy Secretary Vincent Perez was already promoting the company globally.

Perez, now a part of consulting firm Merritt Partners, had been talking about the PNOC-AFC success story in his talks abroad.

"He has been pointing at PNOC-AFC as the ideal stock to invest in. Coming from an investment banker like him, our confidence now in conducting an IPO is even stronger," Velasco said.

DA seeks ₱10B in additional budget

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULture will ask Congress to add P10 billion to the agency's 2008 budget for its drive to increase agricultural productivity and farmers' income.

The additional amount requested will bring the agriculture department's budget for next year to P31 billion.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the P10 billion would be earmarked for support facilities—laboratories, hatcheries, processing centers and drying facilities—for various sectors.

Yap said he would seek additional funds from the national government for the rehabilitation, repair and restoration of irrigation systems covering 88,000 hectares of farm land.

For the first half of the year, the DA has earmarked P3.13 billion for the rehabilitation of 55,000 irrigated farmland.

"We have to seize the opportunity at a time when the government has funds," said Yap.

He said funds were available but would be awarded to sectors and local government units which have the capacity to utilize these funds for projects that were in line with the national government's call for greater profitability in agriculture.

The budget would also support the DA's five-point program that include higher public spending for infrastructure; technology and extension services; postharvest and storage facilities; expansion of access to rural credit and opening up of new markets here and abroad for the local farm production.

ADDITIONAL funds will be used for rehabilitation, repair and restoration of irrigation systems.

Yap earlier said this five-point program responds to the challenge of how to ensure that rural folk and other small farm stakeholders could enjoy agriculture's high growth rates through better standards of living.

DTI, 'lambanog' firms draft production standards

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY and *lambanog* producers are developing rules to standardize the production of the alcoholic drink amid efforts to tap niche markets abroad.

According to the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines, the initiative started with the local government of Tayabas town in Quezon and the DTI's regional office in Southern Tagalog where the spirit is widely produced.

Lambanog is a locally produced drink derived from coconut sap.

It goes through the process of natural fermentation and distillation until the desired 90-proof alcohol content is attained, giving the drink its characteristic potency.

Lambanog is free from synthetic chemicals and is primarily marketed for its unique taste. The highly popular spirit is also patronized for its fruity taste.

The proposed Philippine National Standard for coconut *lambanog* would give the country's version of vodka the technical name "distilled fermented coconut sap."

The draft PNS is expected to "provide for a common language on the clarification, general requirements, essential composition and quality factors, packaging, hygiene and labeling system" for *lambanog*.

Also, the Department of Agriculture has created an interagency technical working group to work on the standards.

The group is composed of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, Bureau of Food and Drugs, Philippine Coconut Authority, Industrial Technology Development Institute, Bureau of Products Standard, DTI-Quezon, the Tayabas local government, as well as representatives from Quezon's coconut *lambanog* industry.

The initiative comes as DTI warns the public against "fake" *lambanog*, following reports that some unscrupulous sellers were labeling their product "*lambanog*" even if the products fall short of the self-imposed standards set by industry players.

Through its export promotion arm Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), the DTI has identified *lambanog* as one of the country's potential export products under the brand development program.

At least three processors from Quezon province—Capistrano Distillery, Mallari Distillery and Bunkayo Distillery—are receiving technical and marketing assistance through the program.

Among the export destinations of *lambanog* are Japan, Korea and Australia.

A set of guidelines on good manufacturing practices was developed through the program, which was started in 1999 and deals with the standard production of *lambanog*.

Aside from standardizing the production process, the program also provided manufacturers with fresh ideas, recipes, flavors and alternative applications of *lambanog*.

The DTI said such initiatives resulted in some P2 million in negotiated sales with Japanese and Korean buyers during the Asian Ethnic Food Fest in 2001 and a 22-percent increase in employment in *lambanog* production.

In 2003, the *lambanog* was recognized as one of the 337 best food innovations in the Anuga Food Fair—which is one of the biggest international food fairs attracting about 160,000 visitors from 150 countries.

ePLDT unit expands to Vietnam

By Riza T. Olchondra

A UNIT OF EPLDT, A WHOLLY OWNED SUBsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Company, has opened a facility in Vietnam to support the growth of its publishing operations in the Philippines and India.

The 1,200-sq. m. facility of unit SPi Technologies in Hanoi, Vietnam will initially provide data processing services, including keying and data entry.

The facility houses 350 production and support personnel, with projections of a manpower complement of 1,300 by 2008.

"Our new facility in Vietnam enables us to further expand our global capabilities, and provides us with another cost-efficient delivery center to support our rapidly expanding operation," SPi president and CEO Ernest Cu said in a statement.

Aside from the Vietnam facility, SPi is also scheduled to open a new purpose-built facility in Chennai, India next month.

This facility will support the expansion of SPi's publishing and healthcare operations, supported by the recent acquisition of medical billing BPO Springfield Service Corporation.

"We are pleased to support SPi in its expansion plans. These significant developments are the next steps in strengthening ePLDT's position in the BPO industry," ePLDT president Ray Espinosa said.

SPi, 100-percent owned by ePLDT, is a leading full-service BPO provider with offices and facilities across North America, Europe and Asia.

Together with ePLDT's Ventus Group, the company has 11,000 employees delivering call center and knowledge-based outsourcing solutions to diversified markets, including financial services, healthcare, legal and publishing.

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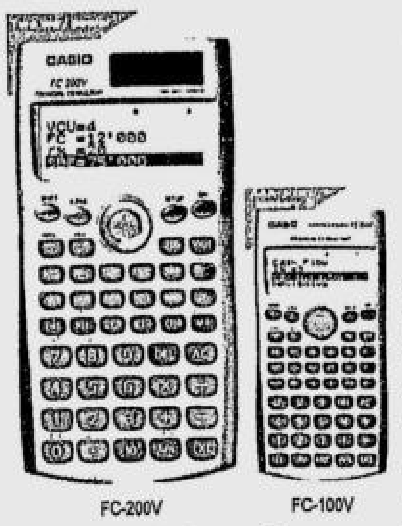

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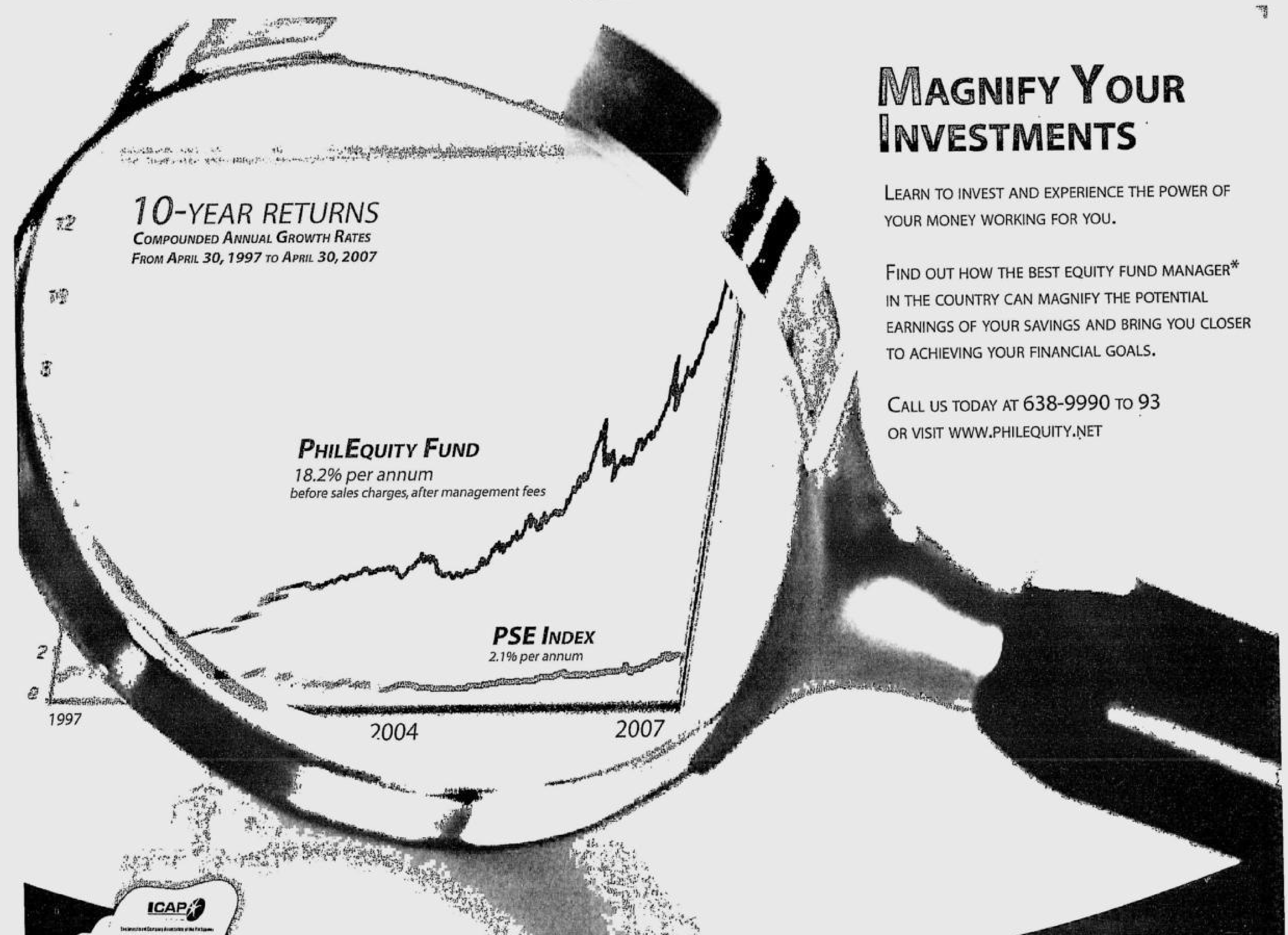

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APC set to mine in Mindoro

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

APC MINING CORP., A WHOLLY-OWNED subsidiary of APC Group Inc., has applied for a permit with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to explore for nickel and chromite in Mindoro.

APC Mining has so far filed 10 applications to explore for nickel and chromite in the provinces of Zambales, Misamis Oriental, Palawan and Mindoro Occidental.

The applications cover a combined 28,845 hectares.

APC Mining plans to conduct exploration activities and will apply for a Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) with the DENR once it determines the presence of commercial quantities of minerals.

The APC Group, led by Belle Corp. chair Willy Ocier, earlier said it was eyeing investments in the oil, energy and mining sectors.

To push through with this plan, Ocier, concurrently APC Group chair, said the company was setting aside roughly $5 million for data gathering and possible exploration activities in the next three to five years.

APC put up Aragorn Power and Energy Corp. to engage in energy resource exploration and development.

In February 2005, a service contract in Cagayan was awarded to Aragorn by the Department of Energy.

The service area spans around 749,000 hectares.

The Cagayan Basin has been previously explored by Philodrill, PNOC-EC, South China Petroleum and Alsons Resources.

Aragorn Power has applied for two geothermal service contracts with the DoE in Kalinga Apayao and Antamok, Benguet covering a total area of 60,652 hectares.

APC also operates Aragorn Coal Resources Inc., which was established to engage in coal exploration and development.

Perks sought to promote use of flexi-fuel vehicles

By Abigail L. Ho

TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE use of alternative fuels, an oil industry executive has urged the government to provide incentives to vehicle manufacturers that either produce or import flexi-fuel vehicles.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. chair and chief executive Fernando Martinez said the presence of more flexi-fuel vehicles in the Philippine market could result in higher consumption of ethanol-blended gasoline.

"They must cut by 50 percent the specific tax on these vehicles. The multiplier effect on the local economy will be much greater, since you will no longer be using (too much) dollars to import crude," he said on the sidelines of the Biofuels and Feedstocks Philippines conference.

Flexi-fuel vehicles have single tanks, fuel systems and engines, but are designed to run on both unleaded gasoline and alcohol fuel, usually ethanol.

If more of such vehicles would be present in the market, he said higher blends of ethanol could be introduced at a more rapid pace—even quicker than what was mandated by the Biofuels Act of 2006.

Under the Biofuels Act, all diesel-fed vehicles should use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law.

Gasoline, on the other hand, should have an ethanol content of at least 5 percent within two years of the law's effectivity.

The mandated blend will rise to 2 percent for biodiesel after two years, and to at least 10 percent for bioethanol after four years.

But with the availability of more flexi-fuel vehicles in the country, Martinez believed that fuel with a 50-percent, or even an 85-percent, ethanol blend could be launched.

In a presentation during the same conference, however, Ford Group Philippines chair Henry Co said there did not seem to be that much demand yet for flexi-fuel vehicles, not only in the Philippines, but in all of Asia.

He said consumers were waiting for the infrastructure to support the use of flexi-fuel vehicles.

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[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9456]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUKIDNON STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF MALAYBALAY, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BUKIDNON STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Conversion.* - The Bukidnon State College in the City of Malaybalay, Province of Bukidnon is hereby converted into a state university to be known as the Bukidnon State University, hereinafter referred to as the University.

SEC. 2. *General Mandate.* - The University shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological, professional instruction and training in the fields of education, arts and sciences, public, administration, information technology, accountancy, law and other relevant fields of study. It shall also promote research and extension service, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

SEC. 3. *Curricular Offerings.* - The University shall offer graduate, undergraduate and short-term technical courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly to meet the needs of the Province of Bukidnon and Region X.

The existing elementary and high schools shall be transferred to the jurisdiction and supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd): *Provided,* That the elementary and high schools shall be allowed to remain and operate within the campus of the University until the existing students shall have completed their elementary and high school education: *Provided, further,* That the University may operate a reasonably-sized laboratory school, if it has a College of Education.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* - The University shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as "The Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the University and the exercise of its corporate powers shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the president of the University, insofar as authorized by the Board.

SEC. 5. *The Governing Board.* — The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

(a) The chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), chairperson;

(b) The president of the University, vice chairperson;

(c) The chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;

(d) The chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;

(e) The regional director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;

(f) The regional director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), member;

(g) The president of the faculty association of the University, member;

(h) The president of the student council of the University, member;

(i) The president of the alumni association of the University, member; and

(j) Two prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization of the University, members.

The Board shall appoint the two prominent citizens from among a list of at least five persons qualified in the Province of Bukidnon, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University president, in consultation with the chairperson of the CHED and other members of the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position set by the Board.

The two prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two years from the date of appointment.

The term of office of the president of the faculty association, the president of the student council and the president of the alumni association shall be coterminous with their respective terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and bylaws.

SEC. 6. *Promulgation and Implementation of Policies.* -The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on higher education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, agriculture, science and technology, as well as the policies, standards and thrusts of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994".

SEC. 7. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.* - The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

(a) To promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(b) To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine in its discretion, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(c) To import duty-free economic, technical and cultural books and/or publications, upon certification by the CHED that such imported books and/or publications are for economic, technical, vocational, scientific, philosophical, historical or cultural purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code, as amended;

(d) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations, directions and instructions of the donor, if any.

Such donations shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended: *Provided,* That such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred or sold;

(e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges, such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors.

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all interests that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University.

Any provision of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other programs/projects of the University: *Provided,* That all fiduciary fees shall be disbursed for the specific purposes for which they are collected.

If, for reasons beyond its control, the University shall not be able to pursue any project for which the funds have been appropriated and allocated under its approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

(f) To adopt and implement a socialized scheme of tuition and school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;

(g) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

(h) To appoint upon recommendation of the president of the University, vice presidents, deans, directors, heads of campuses, faculty members and other officials and employees of the University;

(i) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper; to grant them, at its discretion, leaves of absence under such regulations as it may promulgate, any provision of existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding; and to remove them for cause in accordance with the requirements of due process of law;

(j) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the administrative and academic councils as herein provided;

(k) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

(l) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, science and technology, agriculture or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University; and to authorize the awarding of certificates of completion of nondegree and nontraditional courses;

(m) To establish and absorb nonchartered tertiary institutions within Region X as branches and centers in coordination with the CHED, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and to offer therein programs or courses, to promote and carry out equal access to educational opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;

(n) To establish research and extension centers of the University where such will promote the development of the latter;

(o) To establish chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

(p) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided for hereinabove to the president and/or other officials of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

(q) To authorize an external management audit of the University, to be financed by the CHED, subject to the Commission on Audit rules and regulations; and to institute reforms, including academic and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(r) To collaborate with other governing boards of the state colleges and universities within the Province of Bukidnon or Region X, under the supervision of the CHED and in consultation with the DBM, and work towards the restructuring of the University to become more efficient, relevant, productive and competitive;

(s) To enter into joint ventures with business and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds from which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the University;

(t) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units, institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;

(u) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts/ specialists as consultants, part time or visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

(v) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual system, open learning or distance education and community laboratory for the promotion of greater access to education;

(w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;

(x) To privatize, where most advantageous to the University, the management of nonacademic services such as health, food, building or grounds or property maintenance and such other similar activities; and

(y) To extend the term of the president of the University beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), whose performance has been unanimously rated by the governing board as outstanding based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

SEC. 8. *Meetings of the Board.* -The Board shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. However, the chairperson of the Board may, upon three days' prior written notice, call a maximum of two special meetings whenever necessary.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all its members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however,* That the chairperson of the Board or the president of the University is among those present in the meeting.

In the absence of the chairperson of the CHED, a commissioner of the CHED, duly designated by him/her, shall represent him/her in the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided, however,* That during this meeting, the president of the University as vice chairperson shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further,* That this *proviso* notwithstanding, the chairperson of the CHED is hereby authorized to designate a CHED commissioner as the regular chair of the Board, in which case said CHED commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the chairpersons of the Congressional Committees on Education shall not be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings of the Board or in connection with other official business authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

SEC. 9. *The University President.* - The University shall be headed by a president, who shall render full time service. He/she shall be appointed by the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. He/she shall have a term of four years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term: *Provided,* That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent president of the Bukidnon State College shall serve as the first president of the University.

Within six months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent president of the Bukidnon State University, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency (SCP).

In case of vacancy in the office of the president by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the president to perform the functions of his/her office, the Board shall designate an officer-in-charge of the University within six months from date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new president.

In case of vacancy in the office of the president as mentioned in the immediately preceding paragraph, his/her successor or the officer-in-charge shall hold office for the unexpired term only.

The powers and duties of the president of the University, in addition to those specifically provided in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the office of the president of similar universities, and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the president of the University shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System and shall be comparable to that being received by the presidents of similar educational institutions.

The president of the University shall be assisted by a vice president for academic affairs and a vice president for administration, who shall be appointed by the Board upon the recommendation of the president.

SEC. 10. *The Administrative Council.* — There shall be an administrative council consisting of the president of the University as chairperson, vice presidents, deans, directors and other officials of equal rank as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board the policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the University.

SEC. 11. *The Academic Council.* - There shall be an academic council with the president of the University as chairperson and all members of the academic staff with the rank of not lower than assistant professor as members.

The academic council shall nave the power to review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University, subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and the conferment of degrees, subject to review and/or approval of the Board through the president of the University. It shall have the disciplinary power over students of the University and shall formulate academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

SEC. 12. *The Secretary of the University.* - The Board shall appoint a secretary, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. He/she shall serve upon each member of the Board the appropriate notice of the Board's meetings.

SEC. 13. *The Treasurer of the University.* -The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* treasurer of the University.

SEC. 14. *Faculty.* - No political beliefs, gender preference, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin, religious opinion or affiliation shall be a matter of inquiry in the appointment of faculty members of the University: *Provided,* That said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: *Provided, further,* That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

SEC. 15. *Scholarship Program/Admission.* - The University shall provide a scholarship program and other affirmative action programs to assist poor but deserving students who qualify for admission to the University.

No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of sex, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

SEC. 16. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* - The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy, pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 17. *Authority to Loan or Transfer Apparatus/ Equipment /Supplies and Detail of Personnel.* - The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to loan or transfer, upon the request of the president of the University, such apparatus, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University, and to detail employees for duty therein when, in the judgment of the head of bureau or office, such apparatus, equipment, supplies or services of such employees can be spared without serious detriment to the public service.

The employees so detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the president of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular services.

SEC. 18. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* - All assets, real and personal, personnel and records of the Bukidnon State College, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the University. The positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the conversion into a University shall be respected.

All parcels of land belonging to the government occupied by the Bukidnon State College are hereby declared to be property of the Bukidnon State University, and shall be titled under that name: *Provided,* That should the University cease to exist or be abolished or should such parcels of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert to the local government unit concerned.

SEC. 19. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Bukidnon State College, except the sums needed to continue the operations of the existing elementary and high schools. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the Bukidnon State University shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 20. *Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational/Administrative/ Academic Structure.* –Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

(a) Submit a five-year development plan, including its corresponding program budget to the CHED, for corresponding recommendation to the DBM;

(b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

(c) Accordingly set up its organizational, administrative as well as academic structure, including the appointment of the University key officials.

SEC. 21. *Filing of Report.* - On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines through the chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the University.

SEC. 22. *Suppletory Application.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 8292, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the governing charter of the University.

SEC. 23. *Parity Clause.* -All other powers, functions and privileges, responsibilities and limitations to state universities and/or their officials under existing laws shall be deemed granted to or imposed upon the University and/or its officials whenever appropriate.

SEC. 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 27. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

MANNY VILLAR
President of the Senate

JOSE DE VENECIA JR.
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on April 5, 2006 and February 19, 2007, respectively.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved: May 15, 2007

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

(PDI–May 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Negros
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Capitol, Dumaguete City

Date: May 18, 2007

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Oriental Negros, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts:

1. Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation, Brgy. Cabanlutan - Brgy. Panalaan, Bais City Farm-to-Market Road, Bais City, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing (Widening)	12,000.00 sq.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	21,100.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	4,220.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	500.00 cu.m.
-	Double Barrel Box Culvert	1.00 unit

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO): P 6,050,000.00
Contract Duration: 157 Calendar Days

2. Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation/Improvement, Balayong - Inawasan - Bahian - Pal-ew-Mansangaban Road Section, Pamplona - Tanjay City - Bais City, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing (Widening)	9,000.00 sq.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	15,500.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	3,100.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	500.00 cu.m.
-	Double Barrel Box Culvert	21.00 l.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO): P 5,700,000.00
Contract Duration: 146 Calendar Days

3. Name of Contract: Concreting, Brgy. Bagtic - Mabinay - Brgy. Luyang, Manjuyod, Farm-to-Market Road Mabinay, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
105	Subgrade Preparation	7,000.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,200.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	400.00 cu.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO): P 2,850,000.00
Contract Duration: 100 Calendar Days

4. Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation, Brgy. Buenavista, Sta. Catalina to Brgy. Banawa, Pamplona Farm to Market Road, Sta. Catalina - Pamplona, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing	32,000.00 sq.m.
102	Excavation	14,400.00 cu.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	48,000.00 sq.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-base Course	1,000.00 cu.m.
-	Pipe Culverts and Storm Drains	28.00 l.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO): P 3,800,000.00
Contract Duration: 140 Calendar Days

5. Name of Contract: Construction of Magsusunog - Banawa Road, Pamplona, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing	12,800.00 sq.m.
102	Excavation	8,400.00 cu.m.
500	RCPC (10 lines 0.90m Ø x 7.00m with Headwall)	70.00 l.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	24,000.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,404.00 cu.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO): P 2,850,000.00
Contract Duration: 85 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	May 21 - May 28, 2007 - GSO, Office Hours
2 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 21 - May 28, 2007 - GSO, Office Hours
3 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 29 - June 1, 2007 - PEO, Office Hours
4 Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	June 6, 2007
5 Issuance of Bid Documents	June 7, 2007 - PEO, Office Hours
6 Pre-Bid Conference	June 15, 2007, GSO, 10:00 AM
7 Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 28, 2007 - GSO, 10:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, upon their submission of a LOI and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) to the Provincial Treasurer Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the Bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500.00) to the Provincial Treasurer Cashier.

The BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses deemed in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) Atty. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
BAC Chairman

Note: Inquire at the Provincial Engineer's Office regarding the Letter of Intent including Application for Eligibility Forms.

(PDI--May 18 & 25, 2007)

Department of Agriculture
Mindanao Rural Development Program 2
Program Support Office
St. Anthony Village, Mamay Road, Lanang, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 235-8664 / Fax No. (082) 235-8665

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICE, PCA and CONTRACTORS:

THE MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT APL 2 WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOUR ATTENDANCE FOR AN ORIENTATION BRIEFING ABOUT THE PROJECT AND ITS PROCUREMENT SYSTEM AT THE FOLLOWING VENUE, TIME, AND DATE. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTRACTING FARM TO MARKET ROADS AND BRIDGES, COMMUNAL IRRIGATIONS, WATER SUPPLY AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURES. THIS ORIENTATION IS **FREE OF CHARGE.**

DATE	TIME	VENUE
MAY 30, 2007	1:00 PM	VIP HOTEL CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
JUNE 1, 2007	1:00 PM	ORCHIDS GARDEN HOTEL ZAMBOANGA CITY
JUNE 6, 2007	1:00 PM	MARCO POLO HOTEL, DAVAO CITY

CONTACT PERSONS:

Place	Name	Telephone	Mobile
Cagayan de Oro	Ms. Deliza Camaro	088-8562755	0920-4661089
Zamboanga City	Engr. Chang Wali	062-9912594	0919-4077326
Davao City	Engr. Arniel Soza	082-2219697	0927-4566682

(PDI - May 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 927-15-17, 928-37-42
Email: emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of the
PROPOSED COC NO. 41 COAL MINING PROJECT of the
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
to be located at the Municipalities of Imelda, Diplahan and Malangas,
all in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the purposed **COC No. 41 Coal Mining Project of the PNOC Exploration Corporation** to attend a Public Hearing on **June 14, 2007** at the **Eligio C. Caracele Memorial Gymnasium in Municipality of Diplahan** starting at 9:00 A.M.

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should register in person or by mail with the **EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City** c/o Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul Officer-in-charge of the EIA Division or with the **EMB Region IX with Office address at GMV Drive, Governor Camins Avenue, Zamboanga City**, or at the public hearing itself.

Individual and/or organization may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB Central Office/EMB Region IX on or before June 14, 2007.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through Engr. Rainier D. Reyes at telephone numbers (02) 920-2240 to 42 or the EIA Division of EMB Region IX at telephone number (062) 992-6547

(PDI-May 18 & 25, 2007)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that the following are officers and directors of **American Stripes, Inc.** with office address at **Units 303-304, 3rd floor, AVECSS BLDG. No. 90 Kamias Rd., K-J St., East Kamias, Quezon City.** Notice is further given to the public that American Stripes, Inc. is applying for the License with Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

MICHAEL A. ARAGON	- President
FIDEL G. POSADAS	- Corporate Secretary
LOWELL SORIANO	- Treasurer
GEORGE GADDI	- Director
TOMAS G. RENTOY	- Director
CESAR A. CARAON	- Director
FEBE Z. DIMAPILIS	- Director
EDUARDO R. APACIBLE	- Director

(PDI – May 17, 20 & 25, 2007)

ACCOUNTING STAFF (URGENT)

Female, 23~30 years old. BS Accountancy graduate. With 2 years experience in General Accounting. Experienced in government reports & permits. Computer proficient.

SALES COORDINATOR

Male/female not more than 35 years old. BS graduate in any business or computer course. With experience in cash register & POS sales is an advantage.

Offers competitive salary, allowance, incentives, insurance, medical and other fringe benefits.

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OFFICE SECRETARY

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- Good in oral and written communications
- Female, single
- Preferably resides within the vicinity of Mandaluyong

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARY BABY L. CARDENAS

has been convicted by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 16, Zamboanga City in the case entitled ***"People of the Philippines vs. Mary Baby L. Cardenas"*** and docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 22245, 22246 and 22247.

A reward will be given for any information that will lead to her arrest. For any information as to her whereabouts, please call the:

Legal and Collection Department
ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION
Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
at Tel. Nos. (632) 816-0902; (632) 810-2379
(632) 816-3311 to 99 local 544

Any information provided shall be treated with strict confidentiality.

(PDI–May 25, 28 & June 3, 2007)

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OBITUARIES

TATAY, we love you very much.
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On his ELEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY,

AGUSTIN YDEM DE JESUS

Lucena City

Best Father, Greatest Grandfather
August 22, 1907 - May 25, 1996

His children: **LILIA & BENHUR, CLODUALDO & CAROLINA, MA. TERESA & RICARDO**; grandchildren: **NINGNING & ALFRED, CLAUDE & OLIVE, TOTI & ELAINE, OLIVER, LORALIE & FLORIO**; great grandchildren: **MICKEY & MARTY** and **REDD**; friends & relatives request to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Masses will be offered at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church at Cordillera St., Q.C., Holy Redeemer Church at 6:00 a.m., and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Daly City, CA-U.S.A.

Concordia "Belen" Joya Riego de Dios

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 21, 2007 at the age of 78.

Her bereaved son, **Joebel Riego De Dios**, nieces, nephews, granddaughters, grandsons and great grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at Nuestra Señora dela Asuncion Parish, Maragondon, Cavite.

Our Dearly Beloved

DR. MELQUIADES FURRO PUGNE

DECS Region VI Regional Director (Ret.)
Founder, Philippine American Progress School, Inc.
December 10, 1922 - May 20, 2007

peacefully joined our Lord on May 20, 2007 at the age of 84.

His loving wife **Josefina Sandoval**; children **Melina & Danny, Leo mel & family, Josette (Joy) & Jun, Jen & Fatima**, together with his grandchildren, brothers & sisters, in-laws, all his relatives, friends and staff of the Philippine American Progress School, Inc. request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 12-U South Lopez Jaena St., Lapaz, Iloilo City.

Interment will be on May 28, 2007, Monday at Lapaz Roman Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Clement's Church, Lapaz, Iloilo City.

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Makati:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

Kalaw:
528-0213; 527-3342

Megamall:
635-0219; 635-0220

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." — 2 Corinthians 5:8

HERMINIA PEREZ DEL CARMEN

Peacefully joined her Creator, her husband ***Rustico****, her parents* ***Eugenia*** *and* ***Petronio*** *and other loved ones on May 24, 2007.*

Her daughter **Ginny**, son **Reggie**, daughter-in-law **Irene**, and grandchildren **Galo, Samantha, Trissy, Jeri, Heizel, Waco, Princess** and **Qino**; her sisters **Esperanza, Pacita,** and **Rosalinda**; her sisters-in-law **Imelda, Laly,** and **Flora**; nephews and nieces request other relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret Church), UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 7:00 am Mass on Sunday, May 27, 2007.

We design obituaries for free.

In Loving Memory
on the Fiftieth Death Anniversary of

ARSENIO C. BAUTISTA

November 6, 1900 – May 26, 1957

His wife, ***Felicidad Eusebio*** (†); children ***Amelia, Ma. Clara*** & Warren Willis, ***Aleli, Teodorico, Carina*** & Manolo Quiray, ***Mariquita*** & Antonio Lim (†); grandchildren ***Tom, Maricza*** & Beda Mañalac, ***Louie, Marc, Missy*** & Jason Brodowski, ***Clar*** & Ramoel de Veyra, ***Roberto***; great-grandchildren ***Kyla, Noah, Skye, Ryan, Riley*** and ***Ria***, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES ON SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2007

San Isidro Parish Church, Pasay City	6:00 a.m.
San Beda College Chapel - Alabang, Muntinlupa City	7:30 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Church, Parañaque City	12:15 p.m.
Ateneo's St. Thomas More Chapel, Rockwell Center, Makati	5:15 p.m.
Resurrection Parish Church, BF Parañaque, Parañaque City	6:30 p.m.

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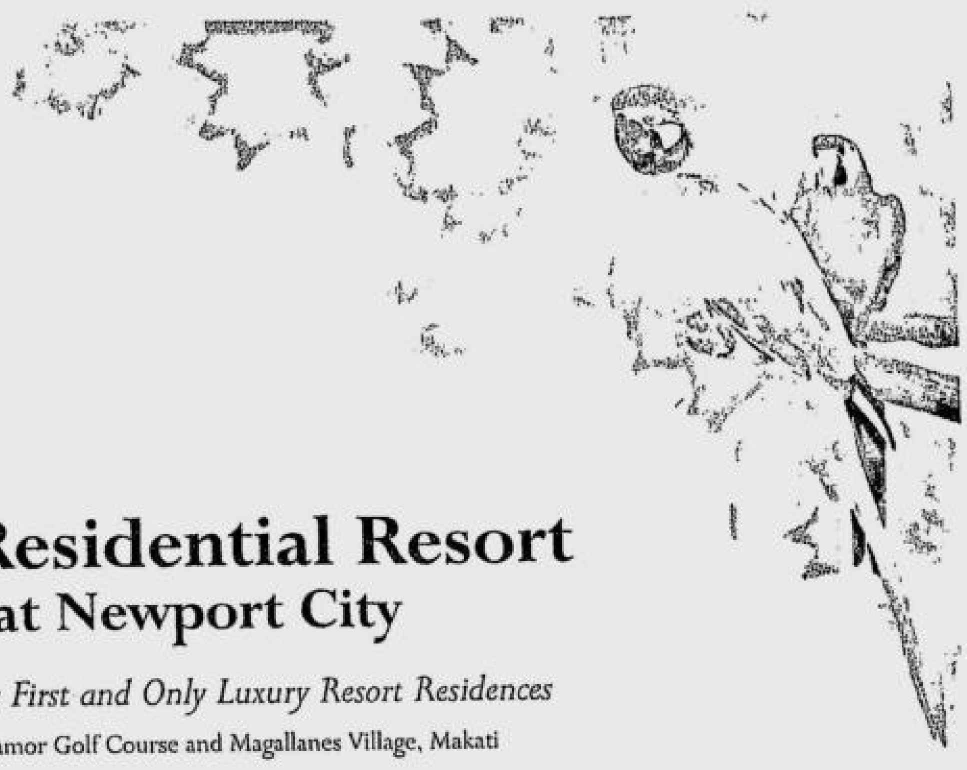

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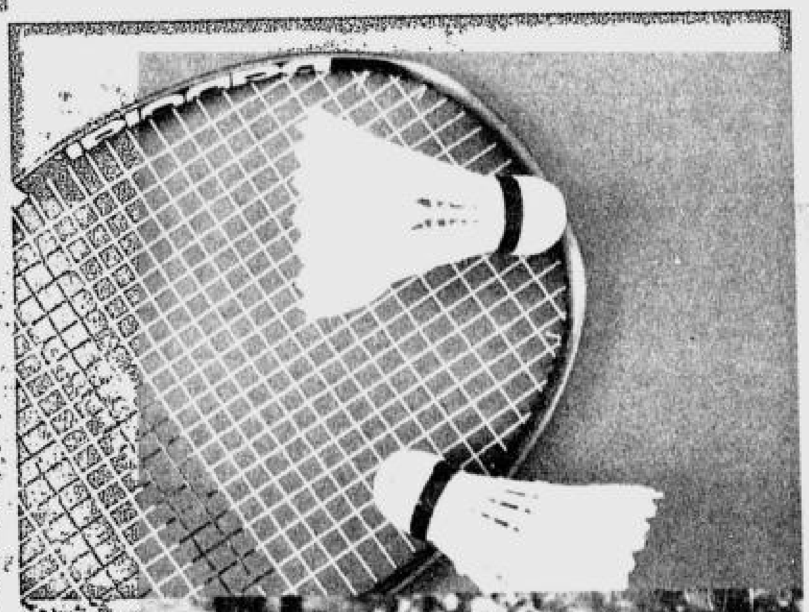
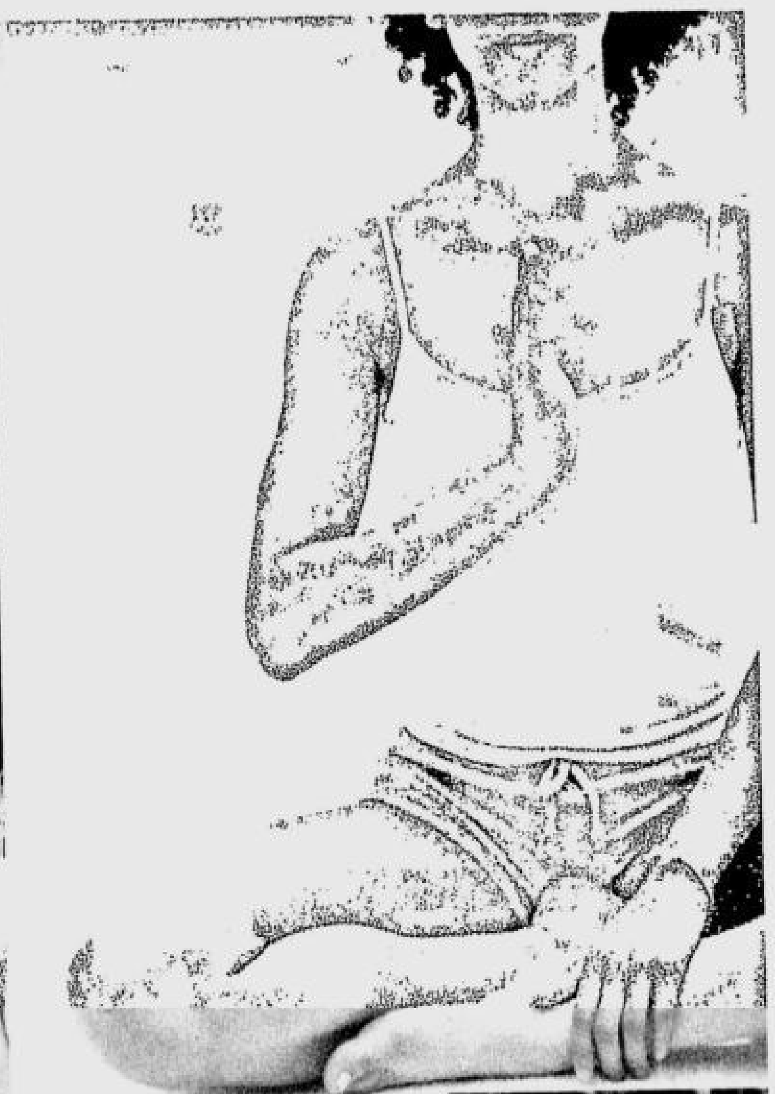


Meditate by a reflecting pool.



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TOKYO Tokyo CEO Sheila Ramos

RHANDY CORDEZ

First in market, late bloomer in franchising

First Japanese resto in RP opens doors after 22 years

By Alexa H. Bacay

WHAT STARTED AS A PLACE FOR DADS and sons to hang out in while moms and daughters shopped has grown to 56 branches.

Tokyo Tokyo started as a shop within Gift Gate shops 22 years ago and is now opening its doors to franchising.

Being the first Japanese restaurant in the Philippines, the restaurant provided a break from the usual fries and burger fare that fast foods offered.

"You know there's a big advantage to being first in the market. Once you're first in market you're able to establish your brand," Tokyo Tokyo CEO Sheila Ramos says.

"For the first time, you can get Japanese food in a nonstiff environment," Sheila recalls of their beginnings.

Over the years, she says they invested in advertising and built signature prod-

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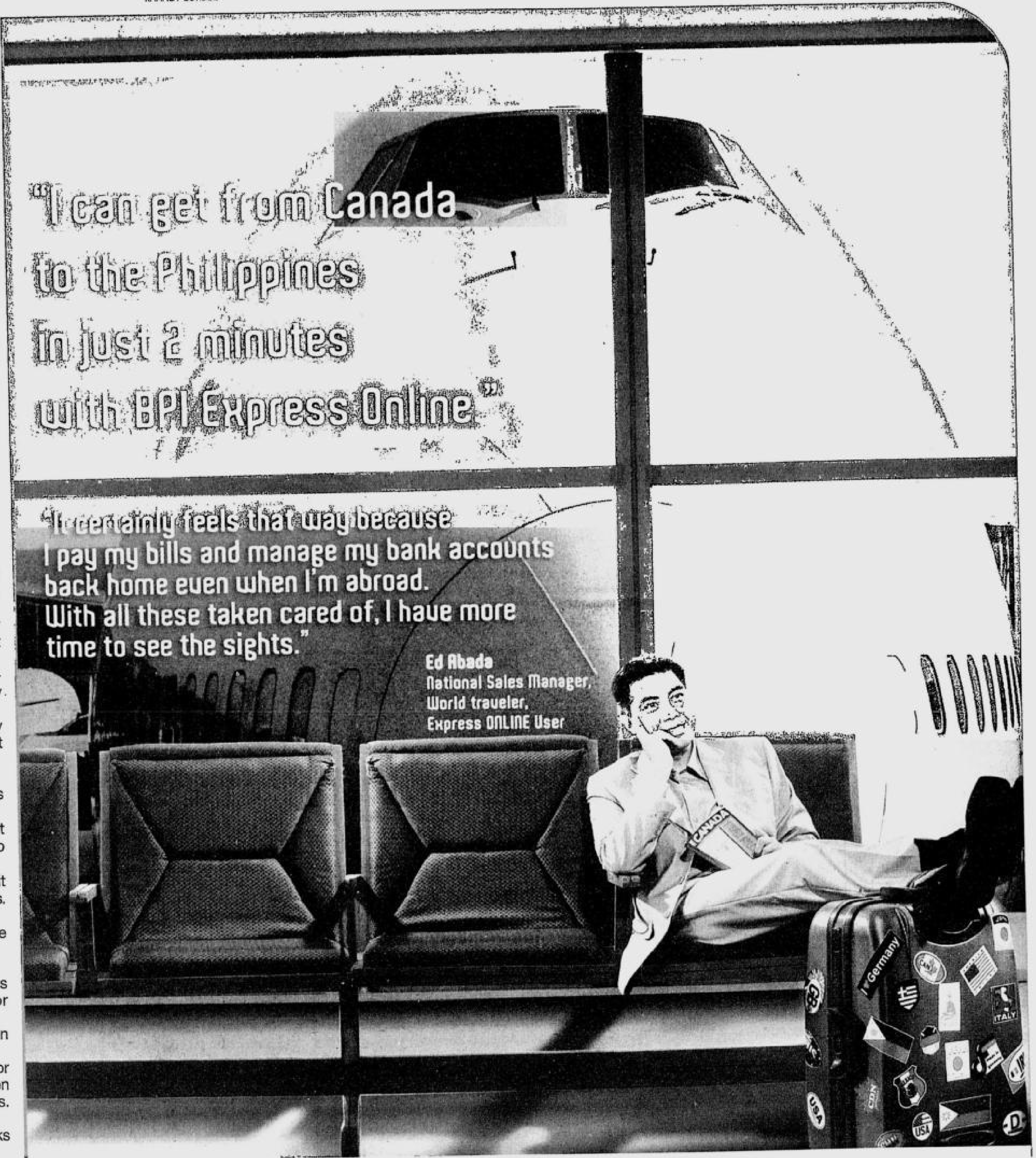
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- Reorder a checkbook.
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Mall offers livelihood opportunities

MALLS TODAY TODAY HAVE gone beyond shopping and fun, becoming community centers in many areas. It also has become a place where shoppers can learn livelihood skills in Negosyo 2Go, a joint project of the SM Supermalls and the Technology Resource Center.

Ideal for those looking for easy to start and easy on the budget livelihood opportunity, Negosyo 2Go is a series of micro business setup sessions which will be held in the different malls. These sessions are one-stop shop offerings and do-it-yourself schemes that give participants a choice of at least three easy-to-do business templates.

Industry experts from TRC, formerly the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, teach simple business skills in manufacturing products for small startup businesses. These include making fashion accessories, perfume, laundry soaps and fabric softeners, hair and skin care products, paper and other crafts, car care products and novelty giveaways.

Negosyo 2Go sessions has so far been held at the SM supermalls in Sta. Rosa, Dasmariñas, San Lazaro, Bicutan and Marilao. These will be held at SM Supercenter Molino on May 25, SM City Batangas on May 26, SM City Bacoor on May 27, SM City Manila on May 28, and SM City Baguio on May 31.

During the recent sessions held at SM City Marilao, more than a hundred participants learned how to design balloons, make detergent powder, and formulate hair gel. They were also taught to creatively package and label their products.

The trainor themselves were perfect examples of the potentials of being an entrepreneur on a micro scale. Aniceta Pablo, who demonstrated balloon designing, studied at TRC before venturing into the business. She helps her husband provide for their eight children with her earnings from her micro business. Today, she is part of TRC's Negosyo 2Go team touring the SM malls nationwide.

Apart from the step-by-step guide given by the instructors, Negosyo 2Go also offers business kits at the venue for those who want to start production right away. There is no need for participants to buy wholesale to start their business—a hair get kit is only P175; a balloon twisting kit only P200.

Arnold Alberto, a trainor from the cosmetics company ACECHEM Inc., says that "the benefit of getting the kit is that you will get the complete formula, raw materials, and instructions on making a product without buying in bulk."

TRC also gives free consultation and applications on micro financing and business registration through Negosyo 2Go. This makes it easy for would-be entrepreneurs to test the waters in starting their business. Kay Daytec of TRC shares, "with Negosyo 2Go, we can avail of the services of our micro-financing partners that allow minimum capital loans for as low as P5,000."

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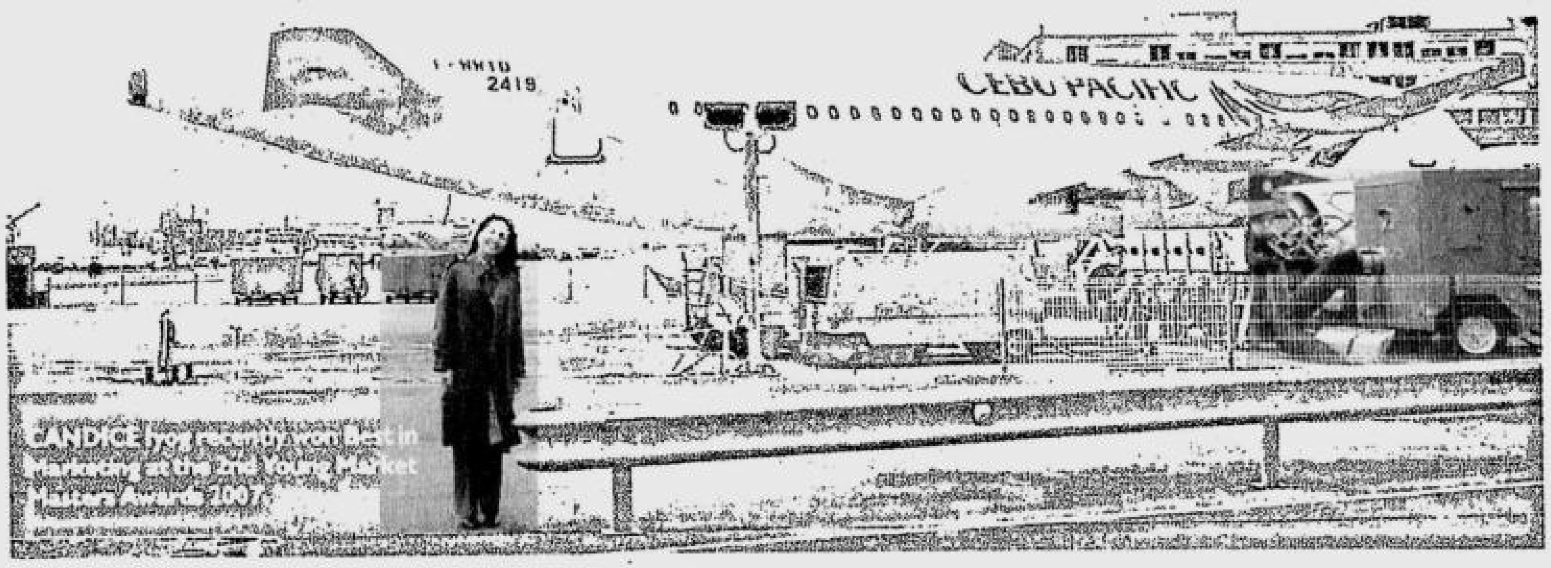
TRAINOR Anecita Pablo

Hitting high skies with low fares

Target is 80 percent every flight



By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AIR TRAVEL WITHOUT THE P1 FARE OF CEbu Pacific (for domestic flights) seems millions of miles away.

Newspapers feature ads selling these P1 fares to certain parts of the country regularly. Of course the final bill is much, much higher than P1 because of taxes and other charges. But it cannot be denied that Cebu Pac's low-fare strategy has changed Philippine air travel.

Flashback to 11 years ago when practically the only airline in the country was the Philippine Airlines.

Taipan John Gokongwei, on almost a whim, decided to go buy four airplanes in 1996 then told his only son, Lance, "*bahala ka na* (take care of it)" to set up an airline and fight the monopoly that was PAL.

It was not an easy first years for Cebu Pacific with a red bottom line marking each year. It was only in 2005 that it posted a net income of P3.7 million. Last year it posted P134 million.

And the improvement in the finances could be attributed partly to the marketing strategy adopted by the firm in particular its fare strategy.

Cebu Pacific (CEB) VP for marketing and product Candice Albanza Iyog explains, "when PAL started matching our fares in 2004 and CEB lost the fare advantage over PAL, we had to make a decision on whether we wanted to be a true LCC (low cost carrier) and offer fares that are 40 percent or more, less than that of the legacy carriers or if we wanted to follow the path of becoming a full service airline.

"We decided to focus on becoming a true LCC because that's how we started (CEB was the first LCC in Asia) and our vision has always been to bring travel closer to more Filipinos and so the only way we could effectively do this and sustain it is to be an LCC; to operate efficiently and to focus on offering a great value service."

In November 2005, Cebu Pacific launched its low budget fare where domestic flights are advertised as low as P1 and regional flights, P999.

The idea of budget fare is not new. US LCCs, which is what you call low fare or low budget airlines with no business class sections, have been using the low fare strategy for years.

More notably, Southwest Airlines, for its $100 airfare anywhere in the US. LCCs have no seat assignments and no food. In Cebu Pacific, you can buy from the flight attendant's cart.

Many of Gokongwei's businesses became successful using the "me too but lower priced" strategy such as what its Sun Cellular phone company is doing.

In the airline industry, it has grab market share with lower fares.

And it seems they are succeeding.

The key, Iyog explains, "is to maintain 80 percent load all the time."

The success of an airline depends on its load or the number of seats occupied by paying customers. This is crucial because the cost of a flight is the same whether there are five passengers or 100.

Iyog says the low budget fare strategy allows the airlines to know how and when to move aggressively in selling tickets or when to take it easy.

Their target is to have a load of at least 80 percent every flight.

She says there is a revenue management team which monitors each flight and sends a call to the marketing group to sell more or to say "we're ok." It's the team which allocates how many seats will be sold at what price.

The low fare can be availed of if booked early and although most LCCs, CEB holds a booking for two to three days before selling the seats.

If an airline knows how many seats for a flight have already been sold, it can adjust its fare prices accordingly.

As the flight draws nearer, the fare prices usually go up.

Iyog points out, "Based on the travel patterns, if you buy a ticket for a flight tomorrow, price sensitivity is not an issue."

The low fares are usually applicable for purchases way in advance of the flight dates. This cannot be done too near the flight date because it will "cannibalize your market of people who will be willing to pay high anyway for a fare."

Iyog admits the most common complaint they get is people accuse them of lying that the fare is only P1.

Cebu Pacific generates 20 percent of its sales from the Internet. Most of its passengers still pay cash. Iyog says they are going to acquire 10 new planes by 2013 to add to their existing 10. Its international flights include Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Inchon, Taipei, Pusan and Jakarta.

In the Philippines many other LCCs have entered with many flying via the Clark International Airport.

THE BIG STORY IN ALABANG

Portofino: A MASTERPIECE DEVELOPMENT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

Something big has been happening in Alabang; in a development that is now quickly becoming the core of Metropolitan South: Portofino.

A Lifescape by Brittany Corporation, the maverick of the real estate industry, Portofino is a masterpiece development artfully created in the spirit of the Italian Old World.

In demand

Portofino's masterplan is expressed on a 300-hectare canvas of gentle rolling terrain. Both lots and home and lot packages are in great demand. In fact, the initial development of 100 hectares is 80% sold. The enclaves of Portofino Heights and Courtyards I of Portofino completely sold out and customers quickly acquired 90% of Portofino South. With demand for Portofino homes continuously rising, Brittany immediately developed expansion areas that are selling as briskly. Courtyards II of Portofino, Amore of Portofino and the enclave for WideLot homes are now available.

Greater accessibility, greater convenience

Today, many roads lead to Portofino. One can take the Filinvest Toll Exit then the Daang Hari Link Road and Molino Boulevard. The latest access road, the San Pedro, Laguna Link Road provides another convenient point of entry. Soon the Daang Hari-South Luzon Exchange will provide a direct link from the South Luzon Expressway. The Php1.38 billion Daang Hari-South Luzon Exchange is a priority project of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and will soon provide the convenience of reduced drive times to and from Portofino.

The commercial area: in full swing

The commercial area, currently in the full swing of development, will be organized into lifestyle zones. The initial zone features establishments in tune with the Italian passion for life, in which one enjoys life's great pleasures. In the initial commercial zone, Fernbrook, the popular wedding and events venue, will host its first wedding event on December 2007. Bistros, cafes, delis and other shops will go hand in hand with Fernbrook to celebrate la dolce vita.

Within the year, a Petron gas station will open for business with accompanying restaurants and cafes. A Country Club and a Boutique Hotel is slated for development soon.

Complete amenities for the entire family

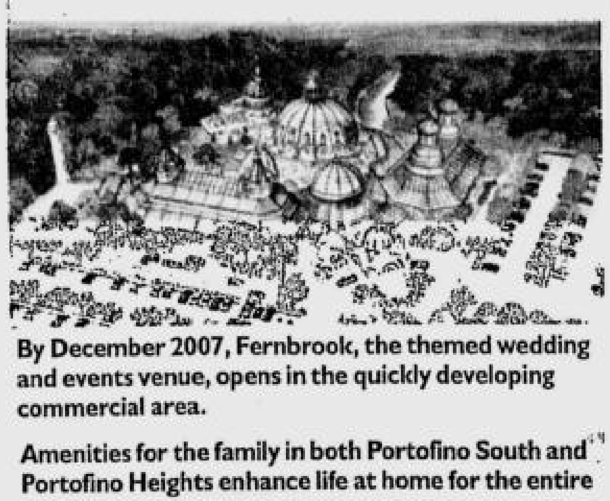
Portofino Heights and Portofino South will offer complementing amenities. The more formal Portofino Heights' amenities spans 10,000 sq.m. Monte di Portofino - the soon to be opened Clubhouse, has a main ball room and 3 function rooms. Families today are enjoying the Roman bath-inspired lap pool and children's pool along with the gazebo and the surrounding gardens. In the works, a River Park will include a mini-amphitheater and a scenic jogging trail.

The kid-friendly amenities of Portofino South will feature a park, an interactive children's pool with a sloped entry, a bicycle path, an open soccer field and an open pavilion.

With Portofino, Brittany creates a masterstroke in property development. And it is all turning into a reality, in a big way, right here, right now in Alabang.

For previews and inquiries, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

Brittany Corporation is a maverick real estate developer of innovative and creative Lifescapes. Its eclectic and vibrant portfolio includes Brittany Bay, Crosswinds, Portofino, Georgia Club, Caribé at The Islands, Avant at The Fort and Mosaic at Greenbelt. With masterplanned developments steeped in character, stylistic and thematic appeal, rich architectural details and excellent craftsmanship, it successfully and continuously reinvents the local real estate landscape.



By December 2007, Fernbrook, the themed wedding and events venue, opens in the quickly developing commercial area.

Amenities for the family in both Portofino South and Portofino Heights enhance life at home for the entire family.

First in market, late bloomer . . .

From page B2-1

ucts. Most importantly, they were able to get primary locations in malls.

"That spells the difference whether you'll succeed or not. If you have a good location, good product and a strong brand, *talagang* your advantage builds up over time and you'll become more established than your competitors," she further explains. "If you're ahead and you are able to maximize your strength, you can stay ahead."

According to her, Tokyo Tokyo serves a very good niche in the market and they have a loyal following. But after 22 years, it is now time to broaden their reach by opening their doors to franchising.

"The food industry has grown and there are many competitors now," Sheila explains further. "That's why it's more important for us to expand so we're focusing heavily on franchising and advertising to build the brand further.

Up until 1997, Tokyo Tokyo wasn't a free-standing store and remained inside Gift Gate. At the time, it was just a simple mom and pop operation. Sheila says that then it was more of a sideline than the main business. But from there, it's been uphill for Tokyo Tokyo.

"We were able to grab a niche. We came in at the right time, and sometimes, timing is everything, when the market is ready for a concept like this," she says.

"We were looking for a business to grow, what opportunities to get into and we said you know, the food industry is good, so we focused on building the brand," Sheila says, "and since then we've expanded from six stores. So it's been a rapid growth for us."

That is why right now she says they are really aggressive in launching their franchise program.

"We're very confident because we've been around for 22 years and we are capable now more than ever to support our franchisees through marketing, operations and training. We now have the organization to do that," Sheila shares.

They waited before opening their doors for a good reason. "It's good that we've been able to maintain our leadership. A lot have tried to come in and copy us but since we're first in the market, it would be hard to topple our position, because it's not like we're sleeping. It's not like we're not doing anything. We're also very aggressive and it's that aggressiveness that's keeping us ahead.

"Late bloomer *nga kami sa* franchising" Sheila says. She explains that they delayed because they wanted to have the organization to be able to audit the store, and to supply it with products that are produced centrally. The plan is that when the products reach the store, there will be very little room for error, so that even if you don't know how to cook, you can prepare the product because everything's portioned already.

"So when the franchisee comes in, the job is much easier, they just need to follow our kitchen manual. When they refer to that, they should be able to produce the food."

All this readiness is supported by a 2,600-sq. m. central kitchen in Pioneer that they moved into two years ago.

"Up to that time we can only cope with our own demand. So now that we have a central kitchen and there is a huge capacity, we can actually franchise and support our franchisees. Of course, if we can not support them, there's no reason to franchise. So now we're ready for that," Sheila shares.

As earlier mentioned, location is very important for aspiring franchisees because Tokyo Tokyo will not provide location. "We know that there are people out there who have access to good locations," says Sheila. "For us, that is one of the big contributions of being in franchising and that is opening doors for us in terms of new locations.

She also says that ideas for improvement are welcome, because many operators are good in handling business. "Of course, we are restricted by what we know because we run all our stores, but there are good operators out there and once we open our doors to them, we will also learn from them."

A big requirement for franchisees is they should be interested in food because food is a very difficult business. People who aspire to become franchisees are expected to be hands on and hopefully they should be experienced in running an operation.

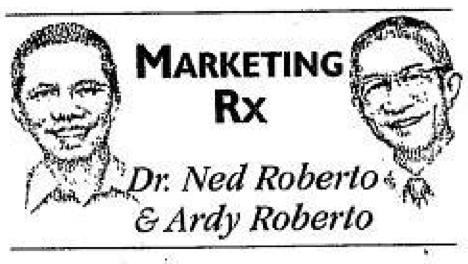
"So they can adapt quickly," Sheila says. "As long as you have the interest in handling day-to-day operations and being hands on in the store, that's very important to us."

Being a strong brand with a loyal following, Sheila is confident that Tokyo Tokyo will continue to grow. "At our scale *mahirap na malugi* because it's a very accepted concept. So somehow, people come and eat and we haven't encountered any major problems in terms of food quality. And I think as long as you're able to keep the quality of the food, *babalik naman yung mga tao.*

"We foresee the success to continue on, as long as people want to eat our food."

Tokyo Tokyo will be joining the franchising show in World Trade Center in July.

Timing is (almost) everything



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

MARKETING RX CONTINUES TO HOST Jay Conrad Levinson, bestselling author of the Guerrilla Marketing book series (more then 14 million copies sold) as our guest columnist.

Q: I've been told that we need to be relentless in our marketing. Do we keep on plugging away?

Levinson: If your marketing is right, but your timing is wrong, watch out. Even the best-laid plans go awry when the timing is off. Here's how to prevent that.

Sometimes a company actively markets the right product or service to the right people in the right media. But the marketing turns out to be a flop all because of poor timing. In order to get the most mileage from your marketing, you've got to be keenly attuned to the right times and the wrong times. To gain a bit of insight, consider these examples:

You've created the perfect mailing package, but it arrives too early in the week, when your prospect is thinking of the week ahead—or too late, when your prospect is thinking of the upcoming weekend. Moral: See to it that your mailing arrives on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

You've got a fine product but a limited budget and a lot of competition. What to do? Do your marketing when your competitors have eased up and you can gain the largest share of mind with the smallest marketing investment. Maybe that will be during what are deemed the slow months. But it's when you can attract the most attention the fastest.

Everybody receives Christmas catalogs in September and October. If you sent yours during July or August, you'd get people thinking of your company then and later on as well. It's may sound a bit crazy, but if you explain why you are mailing at that time, it will make sense to your prospects. Naturally, this applies to times other than Christmas.

You keep abreast of current events by watching the tube, reading the paper, accessing online news services, perusing newsweeklies, and subscribing to publications within your industry and community. You should be doing this, and if you do, you can tie in your offerings with what is happening at that moment in history. A recession is ugly except to companies that realize it is an ideal opportunity for them to make sales.

Be careful not to launch your marketing too soon. One of the most common errors in marketing is to promote before all the bugs have been worked out, before the salespeople know all the facts, and before you are ready to fill the flood of orders and engage in guerrilla follow-up. Remember that patience is a guerrilla virtue.

One of the saddest moments in marketing is the snazzy newspaper story or big time TV report about the products or services that are not yet available. The business owner is so enthralled at the thought of free publicity that the news is released before people can buy what he or she offers. They won't come back another time, and the media won't give you another splash. Restraint is necessary even with free news coverage.

Savvy retailers wait at least one month before having their grand openings. If they don't wait, customers will come flocking in to become acquainted with untrained salespeople, poorly stocked shelves, slow delivery times, clumsy sales procedures and messy surroundings. Polish these items to perfection before your grand opening or it won't be so grand. Guerrillas are rarely in a hurry.

Telemarketing calls that don't get through or that reach answering devices are wastes of time and money. Find out when your prospects are most likely to be at the phone, and then do your telemarketing. It may be at 11:00 a.m. to businesses and 6:30 p.m. to homeowners. The first goal of a phone call is to reach the prospect.

Use speed in the timing you use to deal with customer requests, orders, questions and complaints. People revere their time these days more than ever. Revere it with them and never waste one minute of theirs.

Never be in a rush to create your marketing materials. Keep in mind that to develop them, you are faced with three variables—speed, quality and economy. You may select any two, but not all three. Guerrillas opt for quality and economy every time.

Timing also refers to tying in with the news of the moment, with what's on your prospect's minds, and with what your competitors are doing. Guerrilla timing can make the difference between a campaign fizzling or flourishing.

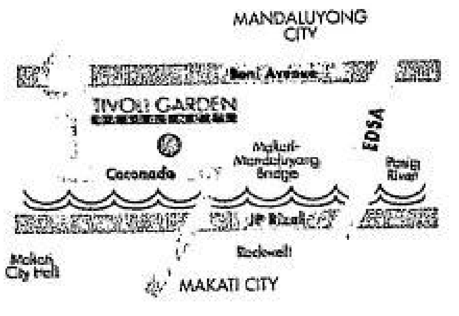
E-mail your questions or comments to Jay Levinson through MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net . God bless!

Here, little ones can run free.

Life is worry-free at Tivoli Garden Residences.

Find the peace of mind you're yearning for at Tivoli Garden Residences. Here, you can rest at ease, thanks to 24-hour monitoring and security systems. Everyday needs like garbage collection, and the upkeep of facilities and amenities are handled by the property management group so it's never a problem.

Staying in or going out and about?
Whether you'd like to stay home or enjoy what the city has to offer, here you can have the best of both. With the wide array of country club-like amenities, you and your family will never run out of activities to enjoy. Should you feel like enjoying the city life, work, schools, malls and hospitals are nearby, letting you experience true in-city living.



Let your kids play to their hearts' content. It's not a problem at Tivoli Garden Residences. Here, you can relax and let go of your worries, because you know your family's always safe. Day-to-day maintenance is not a problem either, all thanks to the property management group. So, instead of worrying, spend your days relaxing in the refreshing foliage of the lush Asian Tropical Sky Patios. Located every 5 floors, here, invigorating greenery amidst the awe-inspiring skyline view is easily accessible. Along with the soothing Tropical Modern Design, Tivoli Garden Residences is the picture of a rejuvenating garden sanctuary you'd love to call home.

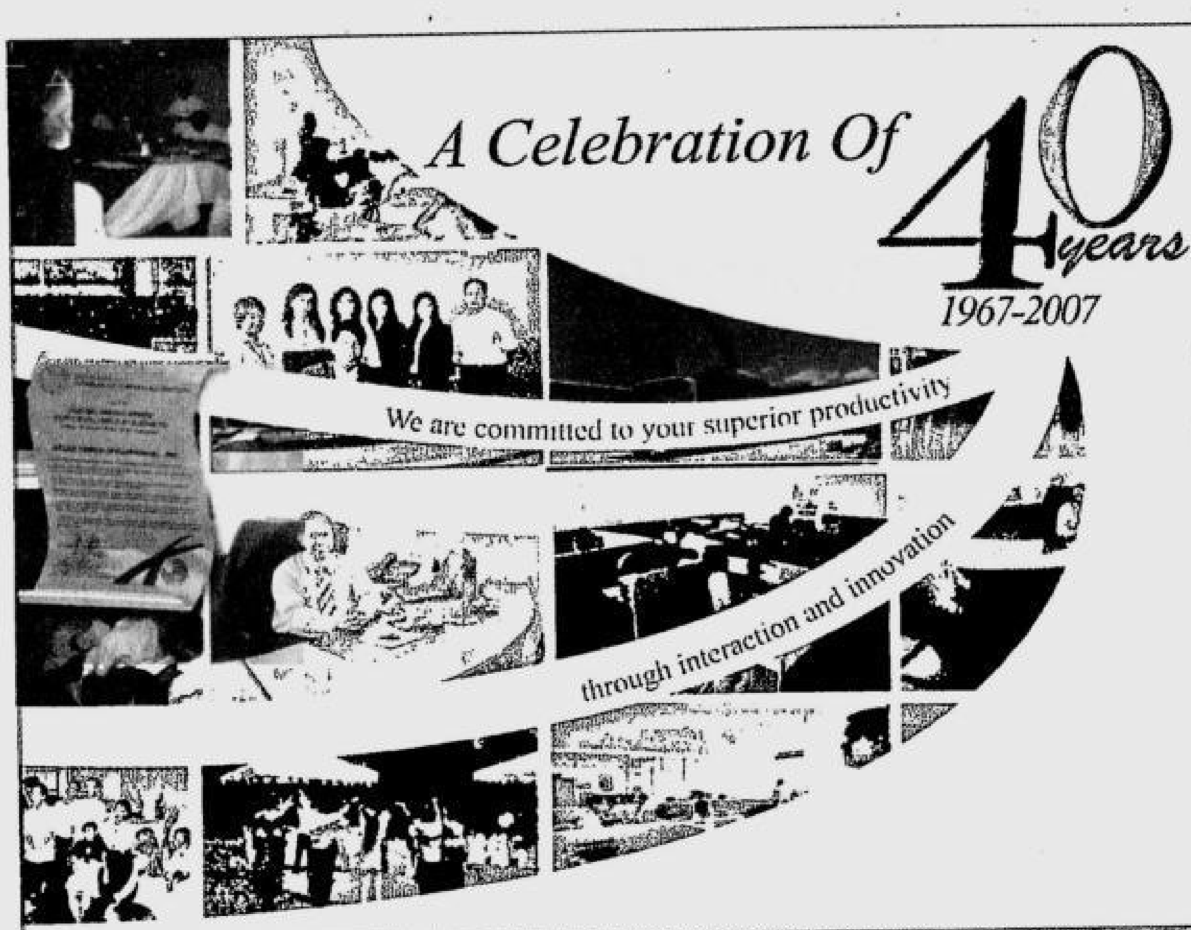
TIVOLI GARDEN
RESIDENCES
Where gardens touch the sky.

Call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com for any inquiries. Enjoy low downpayment, easy installment terms. As low as P18,000 per month for 27 months, interest-free.

Smart Living compliments of DMCI Homes
Best of all, you know you're making a Smart choice because Tivoli Garden Residences is developed and maintained by DMCI Homes, the only triple A builder / developer in the Philippines. With DMCI Homes, you know you don't have to compromise your family's well-being because you're assured of an urban-friendly, premium quality home that covers all your needs and wants.

A Smart Living concept by
DMCI HOMES
Because you know.

For Announcement Purposes Only


A Celebration Of
40 years
1967-2007
We are committed to your superior productivity
through interaction and innovation

Atlas Copco

MALACAÑANG PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

Warmest congratulations to the Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. on the occasion of your 40th Anniversary.

As one of the world's leading providers of industrial productivity solutions, Atlas Copco has immensely contributed to the Philippines' continued growth. Indeed, your commitment to design, to manufacture, and to market first-rate products and to provide the highest level of quality service to local industries in the country is truly laudable.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place to the infrastructure needed to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty. May you remain an active partner of government as we work to achieve a 7- to 8 - percent growth rate in the next three years.

More power and Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

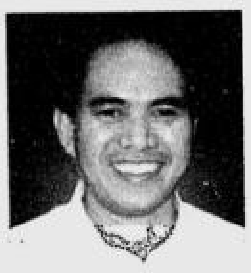
President GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

MANILA
25 May 2007

Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. at 40: The firm that anchors on world-class products and services

Atlas Copco is a corporate success story of nearly classic and quite admirable proportions. It's a global company that seems to have done everything right. And if the same quality of thinking goes into all Atlas Copco's business activities, it's easy to understand why.

In the highly competitive field of industrial sector, day-to-day survival is one thing. Longevity, another, If longevity is the hallmark of success, then Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. can be counted as having arrived.



"But we are more than that," stressed Jonnie F. Regis, CT General Manager, in a recent interview. Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. has stayed long enough in the business to be known and has capably grown profitably to be respected. Innovation, quality, productivity, and efficiency are, in fact, reflected in Atlas Copco's record-breaking growth.

"In terms of revenue and profitability, we are growing at an average of about 8-10% a year. Our headquarters (in Stockholm, Sweden) requires us to generate an increase of not less than 8% a year. We're even actually exceeding it. Last year, we achieved 14% increase [in terms of sales profitability]," Regis furthered.

The firm's revenue further increased to P1.1 billion last year. Adding that, "the first five months of this year are bullish months for Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. which translates to productivity and continued growth."

Regarded as the industry's standard, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is continuously and consistently increasing its aftermarket revenues. It covers all the different divisions within the company, according to Regis, comprising of four divisions - oil-free air, industrial air, portable air, and rental. Aftermarket supports all of these four divisions in terms of sales of parts and services to its respective customers. "If we are providing good support to our customers, then consistently, we improve our revenue," he said.

'Reinventing' Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc.

The true mettle of a leader is tested during the times of great difficulty. Even Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. was not spared by the Asian financial crisis in late 1990s, but the experience provided an opportunity to prove the company's worth.

The end-result was implementing changes of procedures within the company. If it remains to be competitive, it needs a workforce that consists of world-class brightest minds. Regis pointed out that the company benefits as more people acquire the skills needed to foster innovation. To measure company satisfaction, the relationship between employer and employee must be understood.

Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. helps define the internal structure that is measured in terms of evaluation. "We evaluate [the job], rank the employees according to the importance of the job to the organization, and evaluate a specific compensation and benefit range for those jobs," Regis emphasized. He believes trainings should be seen as part of the process of planned development which ties in with organizational objectives. This approach gives Atlas Copco's employees higher level of achievement, motivation, and performance directly in line with the company's needs and objectives.

Now, four decades after it started operations, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. shows no signs of slowing down.

Regis said the firm is upgrading its systems and applications as information and speed have become the critical ingredients of success in an increasingly competitive market environment.

"We consolidate our customers data base, prospects data base, and input all the activities of the salesmen to our software [we call CTP], so that the managers can easily formulate the report based from the activities gathered through this software program. It makes our jobs easier," he explained.

At the same time, the challenge of continuously providing fast and efficient service to its customers appears to have already been addressed by responding to the changing needs of the customers.

"As a service-oriented company, the challenge is that customer expectation gets higher. For instance, delivery of spare parts takes seven days upon receipt of order. Nowadays, nobody's satisfied with the seven days. They're still requesting us to shorten the delivery time, from seven to five days. Even if it takes six days to deliver, it's kind of difficult to do that since it already entails additional cost to the company," Regis intimated.

Yet, the bottom line is, how can you be able to ensure all of these service engineers can render the same quality service to clients?

"The challenge herein lies on the competency level of our service engineers. That's why we have this customer satisfaction survey over the last five years," he noted. The survey highlights the importance of being focused on their customers and needs.
As a business, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is obviously driven by the profit objective but has married this objective with the commitment to always have a developmental dimension in all of its business activities. Beyond the firm's direct Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, Regis believes that Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. also has a significant contribution as a catalyst for enhanced CSR activities not only in the Philippines but in the region as well.
Regis looks at themselves as productive members of the community, and of society, and should therefore always look at how the community can progress or thrive as the company thrives. There is a symbiotic relationship of the two. The company can only thrive if the community around it is growing.

"As per mandate of our head office, we are also helping make life better for our countrymen and in the community [where we are getting business]," he enthused.

Despite tough times, the company sticks to its core businesses (compressor and mining equipment) and attributes the survival skills to strong leadership, having a clear vision of what should be accomplished, staying focused on areas that can be done best and, most of all, hard work and determination.

More than a vision

Synergy is the backbone of the financial growth and strengthened market position of compressor giant Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc.

The country's industrial sector has enjoyed the benefits of world-class acclaimed Swedish technology accepted and utilized in 150 countries.

Good deeds hardly pass unnoticed. For its achievements in business, the Parañaque Chamber of Commerce and Industry awarded Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. as Excellence in Business Award in 2004, 2005, 2006 - elevating it to the Hall of Fame. The ISO 2001 certification is likewise an indication that the company is indeed, globally competitive and environmental friendly in its products and operations.

The passion for delivering reliable products, quality services, and innovative solution manifests itself in the mission statement of Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc.. The goal is for the company to be the no. 1 partner in the field of compressed air technology, power generation, construction and mining, and industrial tools.

"In the Philippines, we are the benchmark for the compressor industry. If companies will require a compressor for their manufacturing operations, most of them will definitely call on us to participate in bidding [or to quote]," Regis said.

The firm has become so successful that it has now three branches in Mindanao (Cagayan de Oro, Davao, and General Santos) and two branches in the Visayas region (Cebu and Bacolod) to cater the needs of manufacturing and other industrial market in said areas. The offices are equipped with the facilities that access the sales personnel of Atlas Copco VisMin.

"We surpassed the revenue target set last year to about 25% in the VisMin area. Last year was really the banner year for these areas in terms of the number of unit sales and aftermarket sales. This year is a good start," he pointed out.

New home

Laguna Technopark is one of the country's largest industrial hubs and showcases master planning in industrial development.

With its world class structure and facility, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is confident that the new office and warehouse will further emphasize the company's role as a global industrial group with products that help customers in all industries to be competitive and achieve and maintain the highest levels of production and efficiency.

According to Regis, Atlas Copco's new home stands on a 5,520 sqm which features lead to a customize design and has a modern look. The set up consists of a two-storey admin building and adjacent connected building for warehouse and service activities on the top floor. "This results to an increase in productivity and fast, efficient, and reliable service since most of our clients are in the Laguna area," he noted.

The company's new home gave them a new challenge because they have found in Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. "a new dynamism that's unequalled anywhere."

The company and facility inauguration takes place today, May 25, 2007 in one fitting ceremony.

As Regis scanned the future, he saw himself when he was a salesman then as marketing manager in 1995. "I left the company in 1997 and then came back in 2000, since then, the prospects for progress of our company are good," he mused.

After all, Regis has done everything correctly. And he did not have regrets.

Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc.: A retrospective

Philippine business may not have witnessed a more tumultuous period than in the last 11 years. Yet, although directly hit - with some even badly crippled, the big names in the so-called Philippines Inc. have survived difficult times.

Starting from the boom years of 1995 to the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998, the uncertainty during the Estrada administration that ended with a military-backed civilian uprising in January 2001, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the US that shook the world and the US-led war on Iraq, the big names in Philippines business, except for a few failures, surpassed all these.

Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is just among the corporations that weathered the economic storm. The company, buoyed by a resurging economy, was again on the fast track to progress.

Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. traced its roots as its products have been around since the 1940s. Post war recovery led local companies to purchase products direct from Europe. What started out as a simple business has made its products formally presented in the country in 1961 by a local agency, Scandia Inc. Since then, the burgeoning industrial market created an increase in product demand thus, requiring a more specialized approach for servicing.

When Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. opened its doors to the Philippine market in 1967, it has practically become synonymous to leadership, innovation, quality, productivity, and efficiency. The company immediately created an impact on the local industrial sector with the implementation of tried tested service strategy providing much needed customer training on the applications and uses of its products. The union of offering products and services together with the technological and information know-how proved tremendously beneficial to just about all the major Philippine industries such as mining, construction, manufacturing, logging, sugar, shipping, pharmaceutical, and many more.

Formerly situated at Kilometer 15 in Parañaque, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. has found a new home at Laguna Technopark with continuous growth and unique opportunities for building and strengthening its top-of-the-line businesses.

From its origins during the 19th century Industrial Revolution to today's Information Technology boom, the company has striven to provide the world with the highest quality products and services. Atlas Copco is a global industrial group that provides the world with products that help its customers in all industries to achieve and maintain the highest levels of production and efficiency.

With its headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden, Atlas Copco employs more than 26,000 people and manufacturers products in 14 countries in four continents. Sales and rentals under different brands are made through global sales and service network reaching 150 countries, half of which are served by wholly or partly owned sales company.

After four decades of prevailing during times of good and bad, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. reaffirms its commitment to design, manufacture, and market first rate products and provides the highest levels of quality and service to the local industrial market. Its creed to which Atlas Copco was founded lives up to its legacy, because it has proven time and again that the company's ability and desire to see change as opportunity, to adjust to volatile environments, but remain open to new ideas and new ways of doing business.

Throughout its history, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. has been committed to innovation and open to changing environments, and this remains the key to its future successes.

Empowering RP's Construction and Mining Industries

Considering that mining industry is being revived in the country as a main vehicle in job generation and increase in government revenues, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is gearing its main thrusts in being able to be a major contributor in the advancement of the industry in particular, and the sustainable development objectives of the country, in general.

Atlas Copco's Construction and Mining Technique business area develops, manufactures, markets and services rock drilling tools, construction and demolition tools, drill rigs and equipment, breakers and geotechnical drilling equipment for industry needs in the areas of rock excavation, light construction, demolition and exploratory digging. Construction and Mining Technique is a global provider of state-of-the-art products and is the leader in quality, productivity, service, environment and ergonomics.

The CMT Division is the preferred partner of most operating mines, quarries, water districts and construction companies in the country. For the CMT business, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. controls the market share in terms of sales of capital equipment.

Tom Consolacion, CMT general manager considers products, people, organization and experience as the company's strengths. However, he assured that Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is not about to rest on its laurels as greater challenges looms ahead.

"With the continuous development of new products and services, there is a need to upgrade personnel in terms of technical service knowledge. We deal with it by setting up training school and hiring engineers for training," declares Consolacion.

By building up the organization and improving territory coverage, Atlas Copco (Philippines) Inc. is trying to match the growth and improvement of the Mining and Construction Industries.

"For us to be able to contribute better to the nation's construction and mining sectors, we are keen on strengthening our aftermarket support with the help of our regional structure," Consolacion furthered.

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'BIG' Appliance and Technology Shopping Experience @ Anson's

By Joel V. Nigos

PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA

When you visit Anson's newest appliance and technology store at the Ortigas Center, you will probably be surprised with its bright and slick interiors, the attractive display, the wide array of products to choose from, not to mention, the outlet's high ceiling.

BRAVIA
BRAVIA
BRAVIA
BRAVIA

SAMSUNG
LCD

SHARP
SHARP
SHARP AQUOS

NOKIA
Nseries

Radiating a modern and hip atmosphere at the same time showcasing the most complete and most varied appliance and gadget brands and models, the outlet is the latest to hit town and is touted to be the biggest appliance and technology store in the market today.

"From the start when we were conceptualizing the store, we know we have the chance to be different," shares Kenneth C. Keng, business development manager of Anson's newest branch which is aptly named Anson's @ HOME. "The building has 18 floors with four basements included for ample parking space to accommodate our customers. Most of the appliance stores now are inside the malls. We wanted to be a stand-alone store. We wanted to be a destination, the place where people go to when they shop for appliances and consumer electronics," says Kenneth.

Barely two months since it opened, Kenneth shares that the store's inviting look has helped the branch attract more customers. Anchored on the concept of "big" appliance and technology shopping experience for customers, Kenneth says that's the primary reason why they came up with a store of this size.

'Huge' yet chic

The huge yet chic appliance and technology store also provides a unique addition - a

ANSONS/ B2

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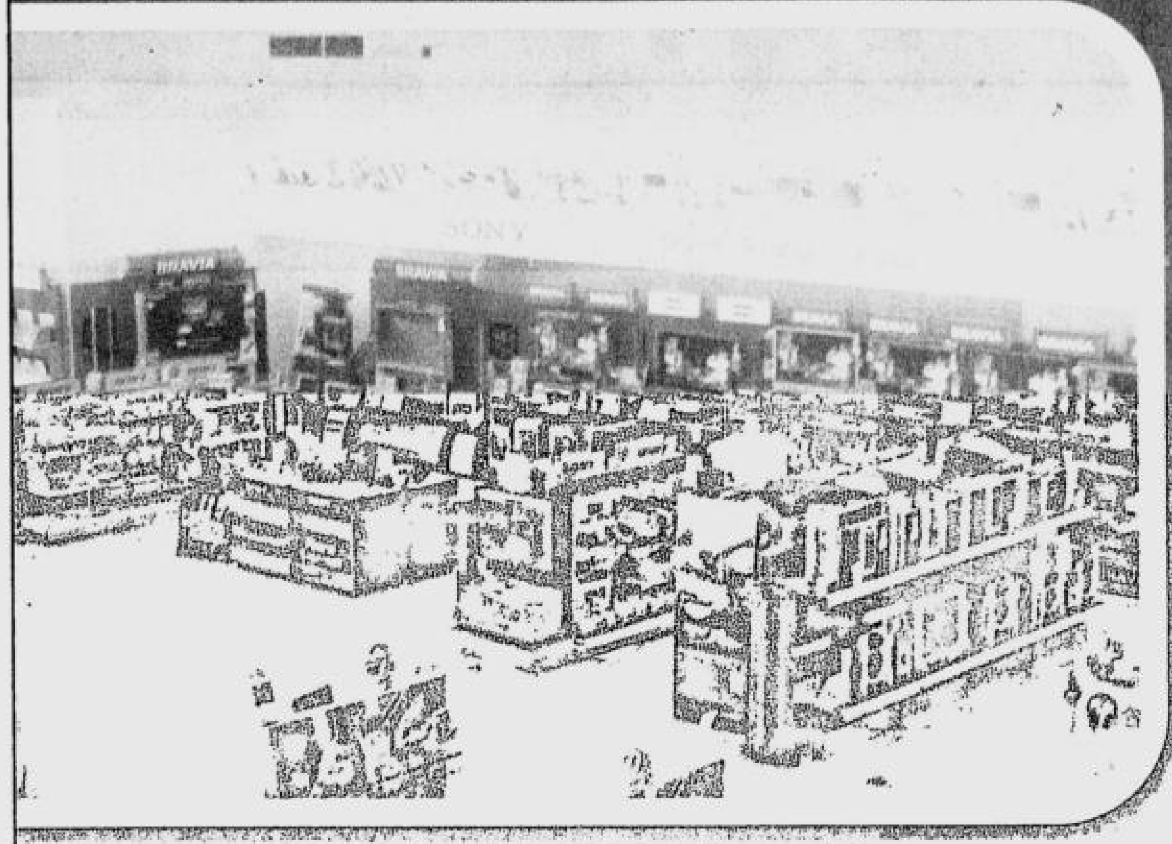
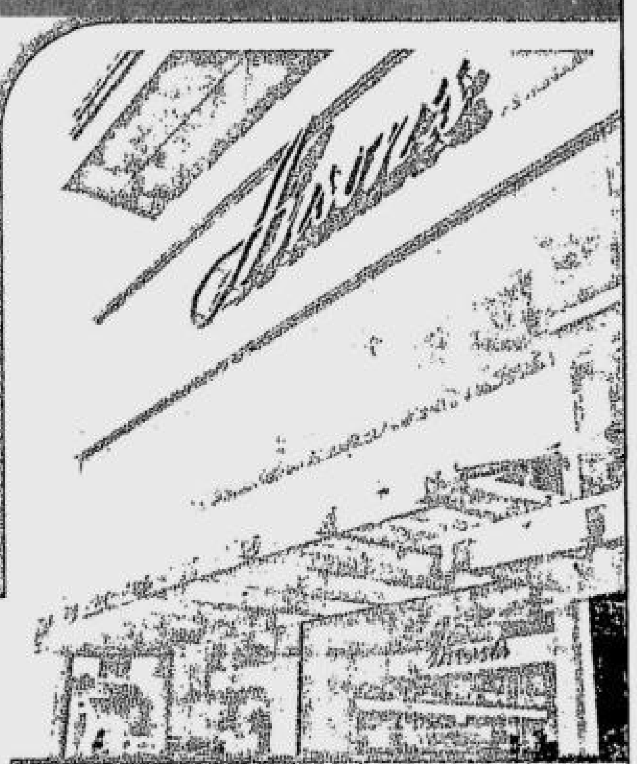
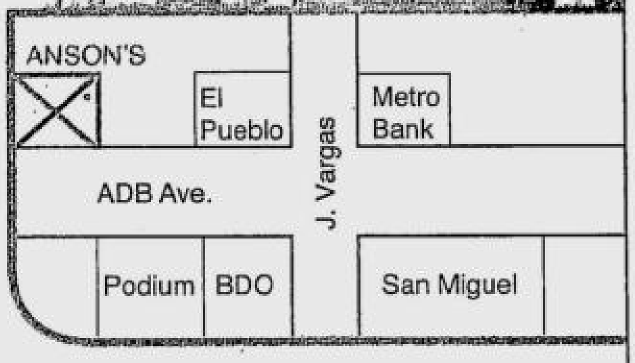


DIGITAL SOLUTIONS PLAZA -ORTIGAS CENTER by ANSON'S

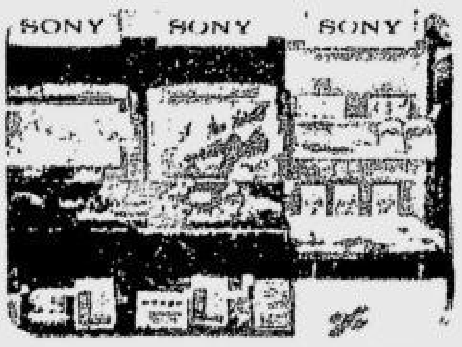




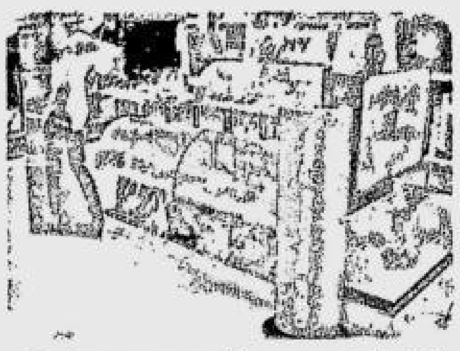
SONY INAUGURATES NEWEST DSP AT ANSON'S ORTIGAS: THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST ELECTRONICS SHOP

After having done research on the brand and model of the latest gadget or appliance that we would like to acquire, the next thing we should consider is where to buy it. Since we have put in a lot of work on due diligence, we should not leave to chance where we will be buying our latest purchase it should be at a duly authorized dealer to ensure the highest quality of the product and that we will get priority service and attention at all times.

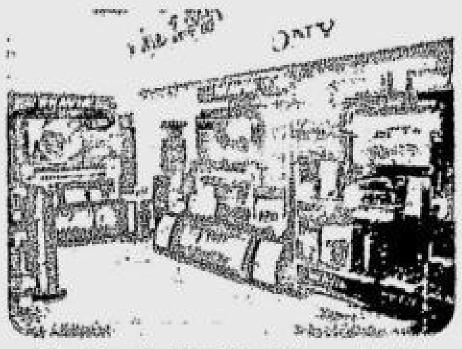
To assure consumers of the highest product quality and the best customer service, Sony has put up Sony Squares and Digital Solutions Plazas (DSPs) in key commercial areas all over the country. "These concept stores have helped strengthen our ties with our consumers and increase awareness of our newly launched products," Mr. Toshiya Kagita, Sony's Managing Director, said.



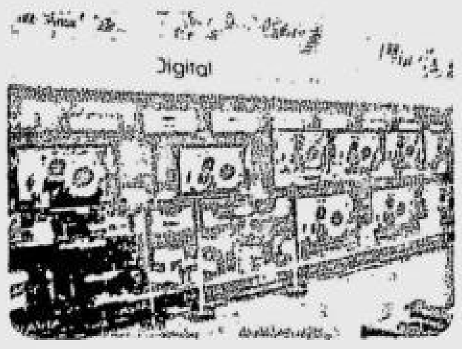
Welcome to SONY's High Definition and BLUE TOOTH WORLD



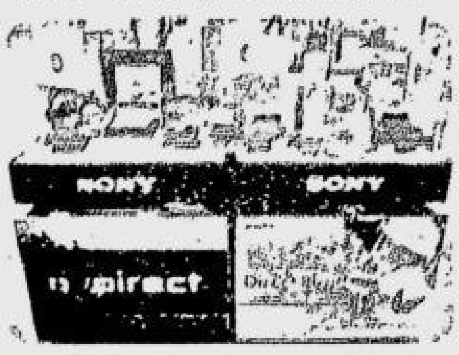
Capture memorable moments in full HD with CYBERSHOT's new line-up



The Bravia Family - 2 Megapixel 60" SXRD, 50" 3-LCD PJTV w/ Bravia Engine EX and 40" Bravia Engine Enhanced LCD TV



SONY covers the widest range of LCD TVs in the market



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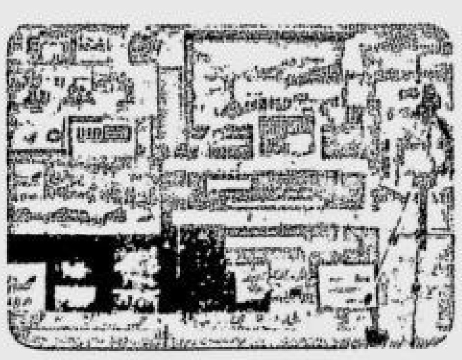

The SONY HANDYCAM products - Keeping memories alive.

Spurred on by the DSPs' meaningful contribution to its bottomline, Sony, in partnership with Anson's, is opening the 10th DSP at Anson's Ortigas along ADB Avenue, Pasig City. Anson's Ortigas, a four-level high-tech hub, boasts a world-class design, offers the most complete line up of personal and home entertainment products, and is the country's largest electronics shop, to date.

The Sony DSP also offers unparalleled services to customers. DSP personnel are especially trained to be dependable sources of information about products and their features to be able to provide correct and sufficient answers to customer inquiries.

DSPs showcase the widest selection of Sony products currently available in the country, including the complete HD World product line up more HD Bravia televisions (From LCD TVs to 3LCD Projection TVs), the new HD Cyber-shot and HD Handycam models, complete with the Sony DPP-FPHD1 photo printer and HDPS-L1 hard disk photo storage device. Only Sony offers a complete solution for the total HD experience. "With the new Sony HD World, we will bring the HD experience to a more personal level," Mr. Kagita said.

All DSPs showcase the interconnectivity of Sony products through various Sony Solutions, another innovation from the world's leading electronic giant. For instance, a picture taken with a Sony HD Cyber-shot T100 can be projected in two megapixel full high-definition (HD) resolution through the 70" Sony Bravia SXRD television. The same picture can then be printed in HD with the DPP-FPHD1 and stored in the HDPS-L1. .

Visit Anson's at 23 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries on product availability and other concerns, call them at 706-1888.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 0666 Series of 2007.

Big Appliance and Technology Shopping Experience at Ansons

From page B1

customers' lounge area at the mezzanine floor.

"We really wanted to be unique, that's why we came out again with this idea," explains Kenneth. Other appliance stores just drop a few tables and chairs and provide very limited space. Since we really wanted to be distinct from the competition, we came out with this concept of a place where customers can relax, can browse over the latest digital camera or MP3 player that they wanted to buy, have a drink or two, or read some of the product brochures while waiting for their transaction to be completed," he elaborates.

Now the single biggest appliance and technology store in the country in terms of store area, Anson's @ HOME occupies 1,550 square meters of space per floor with a total of four floors featuring appliances and consumer electronics in various categories.

"That's more than 6,000 square meters of floor space of the latest, the most varied, the most number of models of every appliance and gadget available in the market today," Kenneth boasts.

With the large area, Kenneth explains that Anson's is able to get away from the catalogue selling which is common for other appliance stores. He adds that these outlets have to do this because they have to save space and the customers are usually shortchanged with this setup because they are not able to see with their own eyes the best models.

Convenient and exciting

Since appliances and gadgets are placed according to their categories, shopping at Anson's would not only be convenient but exciting as well.

Strategically placed at the ground floor are the larger and high-end audio and video ap-

ANSONS/ B3

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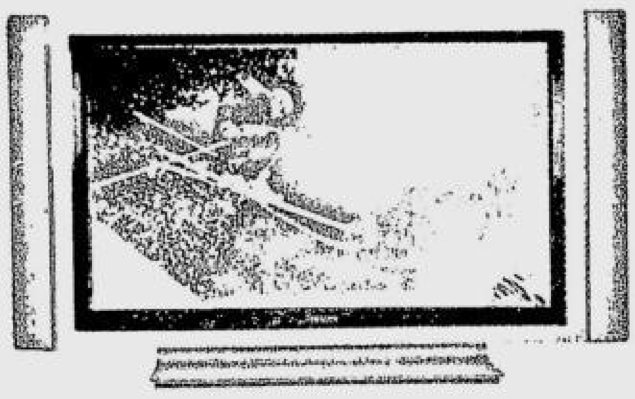
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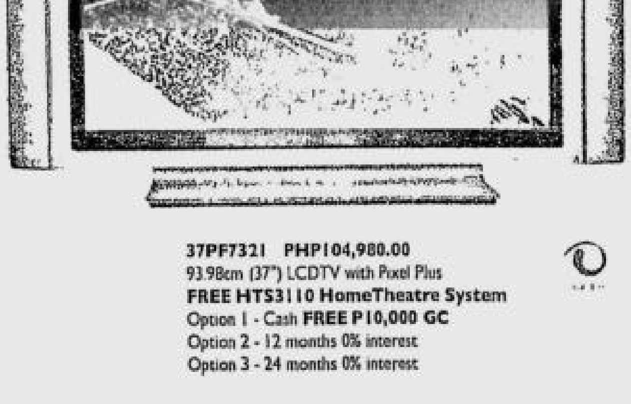
37PF7321 PHP104,980.00
93.98cm (37") LCDTV with Pixel Plus
FREE HTS3110 HomeTheatre System
Option 1 - Cash FREE P10,000 GC
Option 2 - 12 months 0% interest
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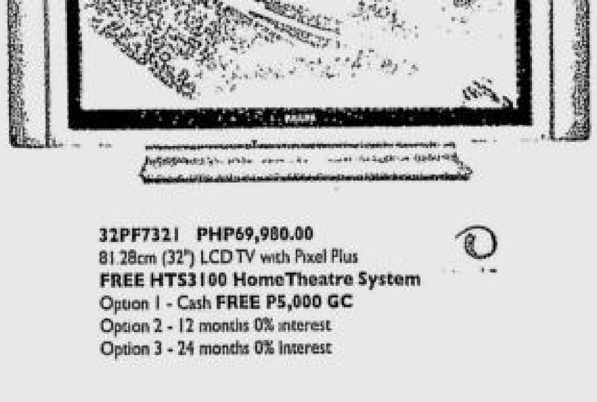
32PF7321 PHP69,980.00
81.28cm (32") LCD TV with Pixel Plus
FREE HTS3100 HomeTheatre System
Option 1 - Cash FREE P5,000 GC
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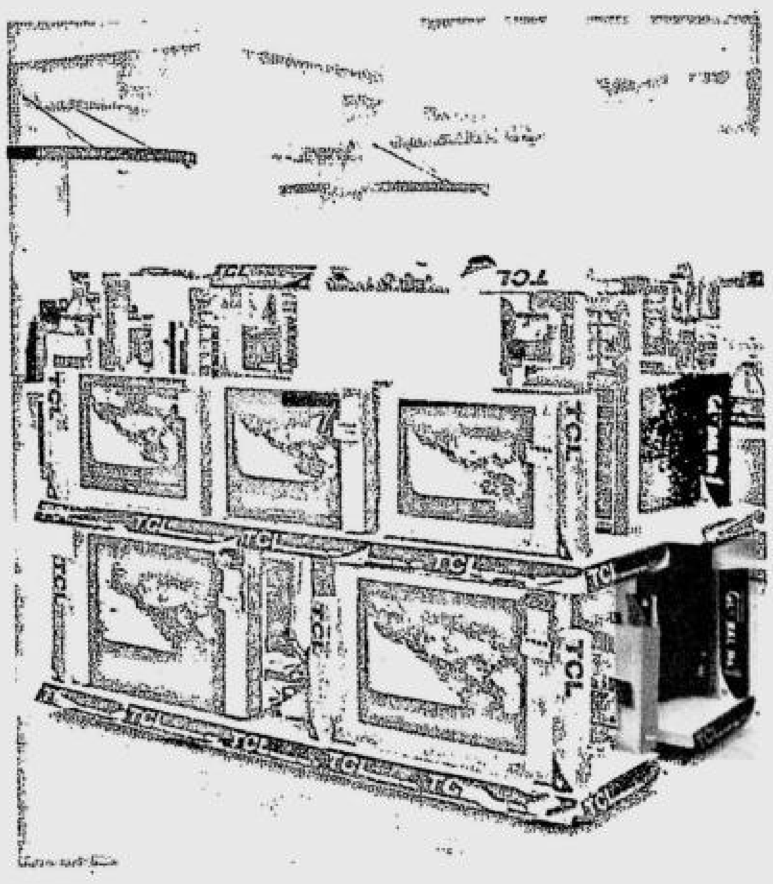
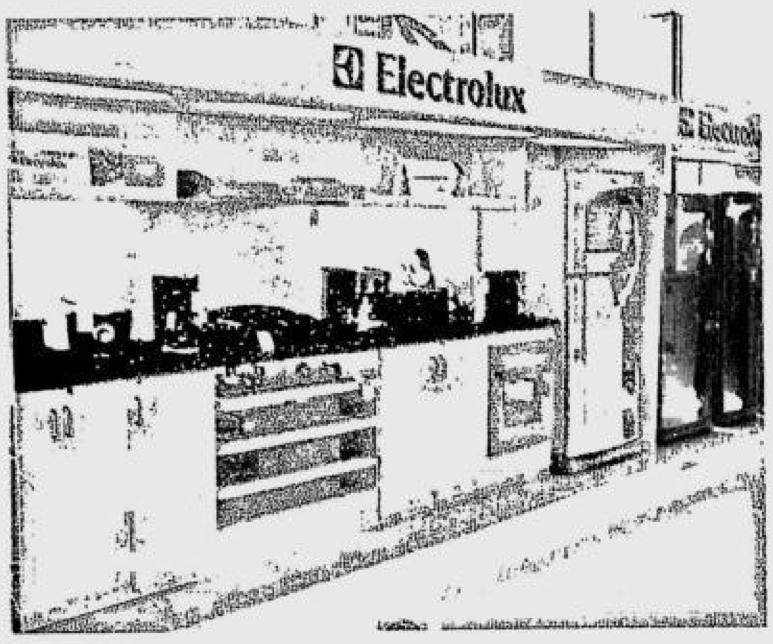
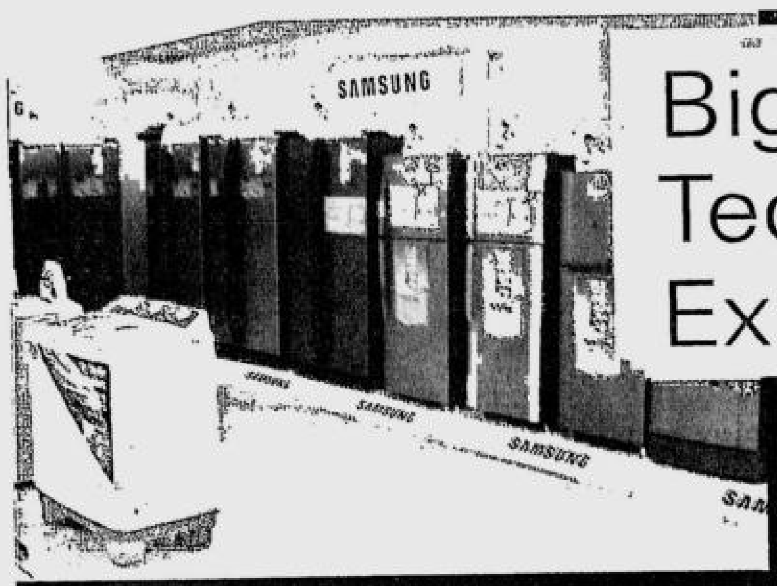
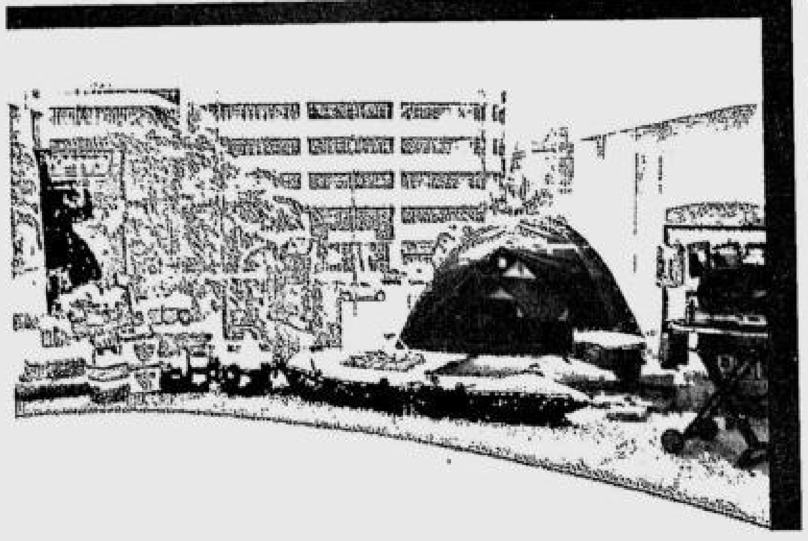
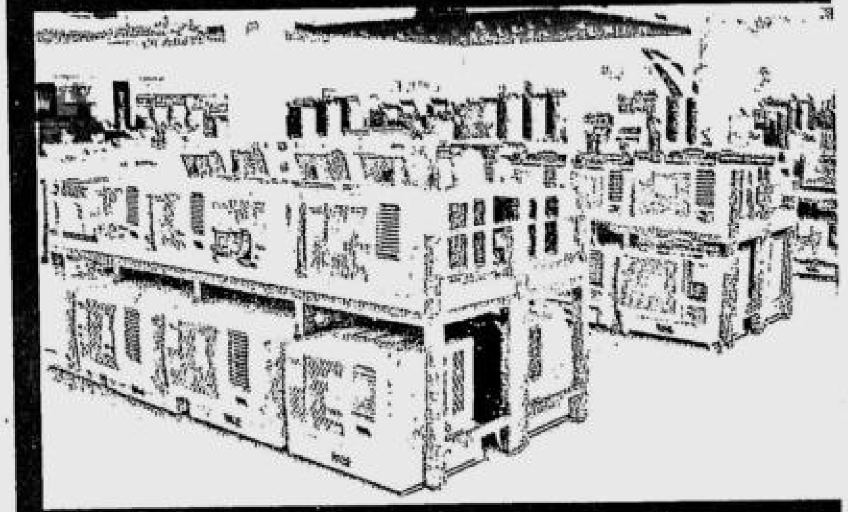


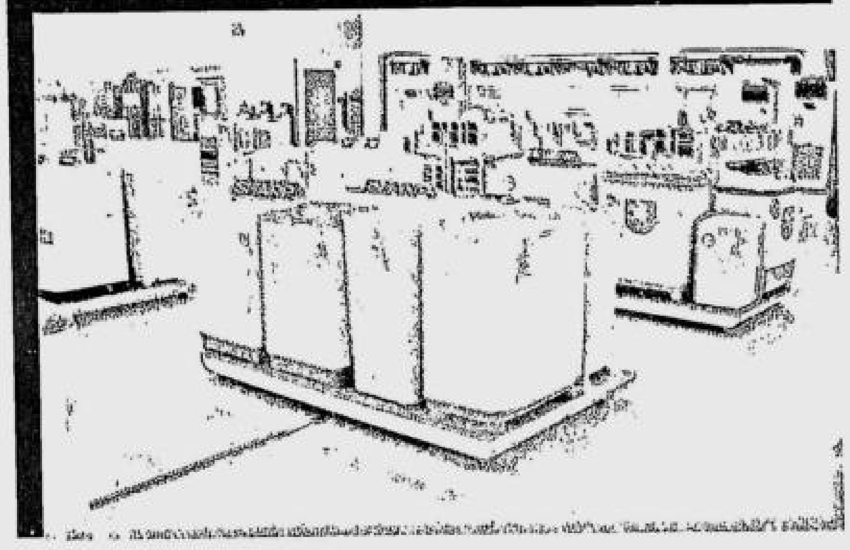


Big Appliance and Technology Shopping Experience at Ansons









From page B2

pliances such as colored TV's, LCD's Plasma TV's, home theater systems, and mini and midi hi-fi component stereos. The audio and video showcase features world-class brands and all models. Techies will drool over the latest electronic gadgets like mobile phones and accessories, multi-media devices, and a full range of Apple computers and accessories. The audiophiles can also find a haven in this place with the latest line of MP3 players and karaoke system.

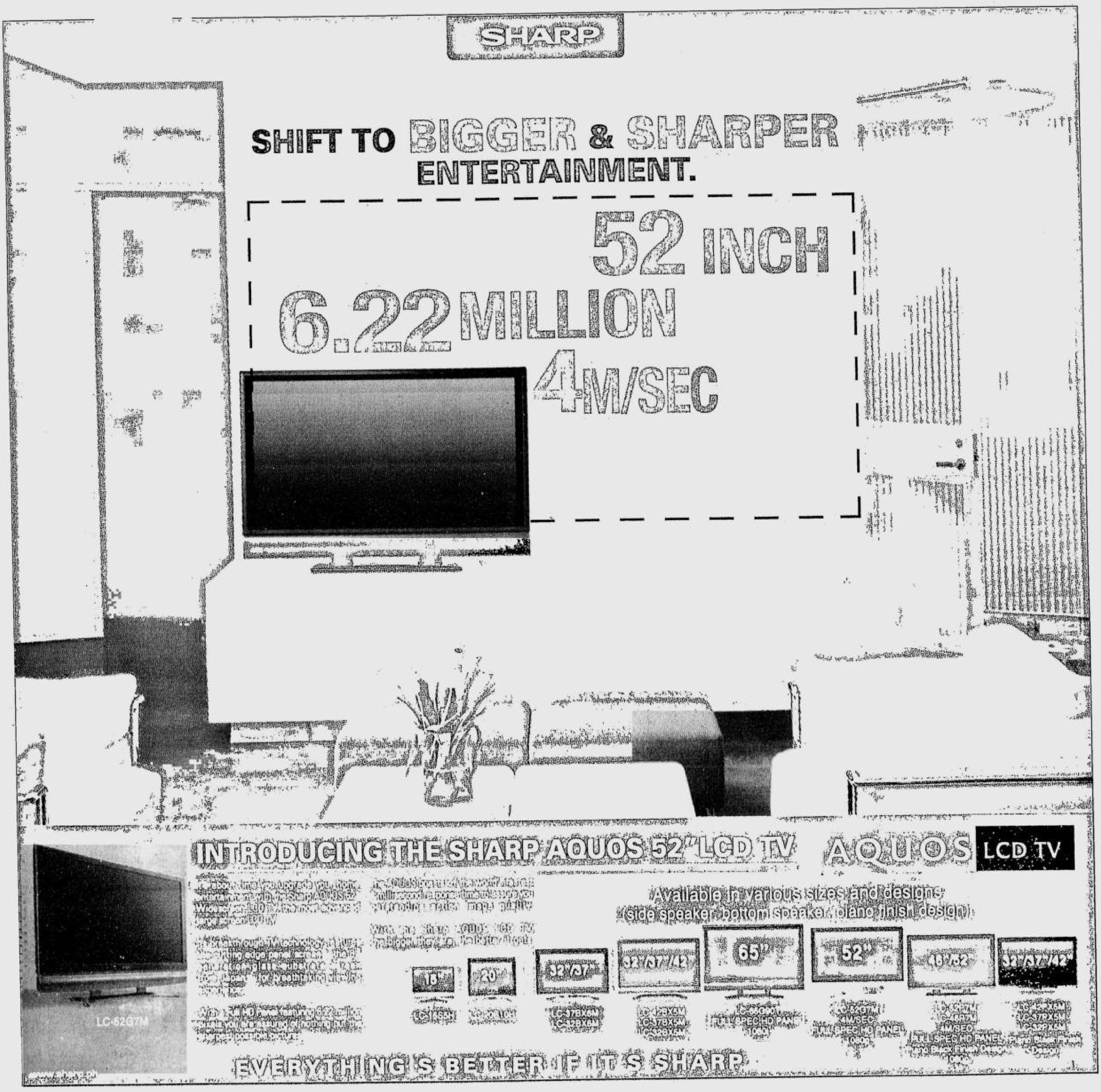
The mezzanine features the transaction counter and Anson's unique customers' lounge area.

At the second floor, you will still find more brands of LCDs, audio component systems such as DVD players and the smaller and the lower-priced models of audio and video appliances. Also featured at the second floor are household items like electric fans, automatic irons, rice cookers, blenders, toasters, grillers, juice extractors, water dispenser and water purifiers as well as office equipment such as fax machines, calculators and adding machines.

The third floor features the white lines which include the various brands and models of air conditioners and dehumidifiers. It also has the kitchen showcase such as refrigerators and freezers, ranges, range hoods and electric stoves, and the laundry showcase with its washing machines and dryers. Soon to open is the fourth level which would showcase computers and laptops as well various furniture items.

Now more than 40 years serving the market, Anson's is one of the first appliance stores in the country. It has branches in Makati, Chinatown, Alabang, Ortigas and soon in Quezon City at Ayala's Trinoma complex.

Anson's Ortigas branch is located at No. 23 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City with tel. no. 706-1888.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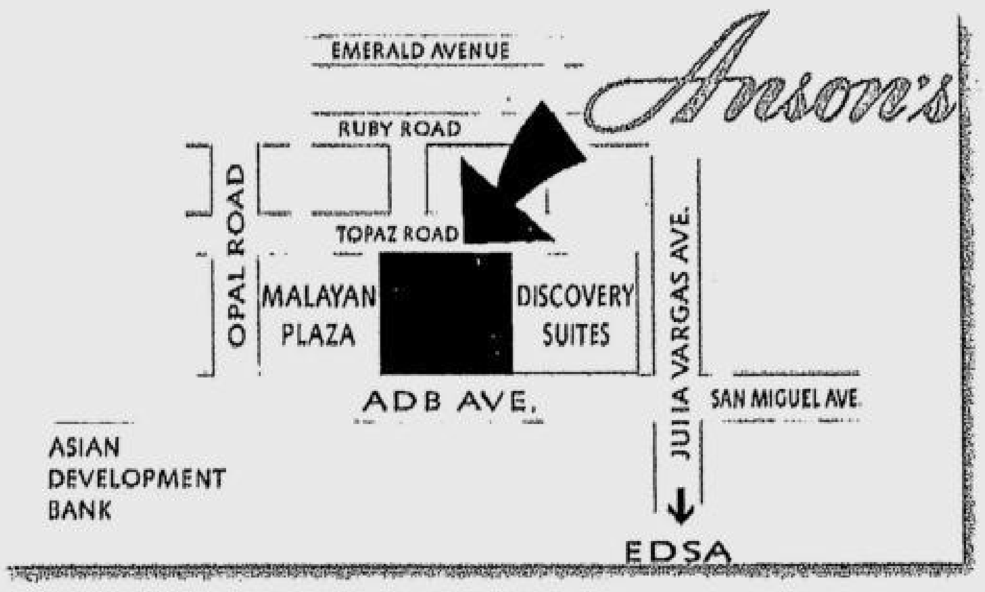

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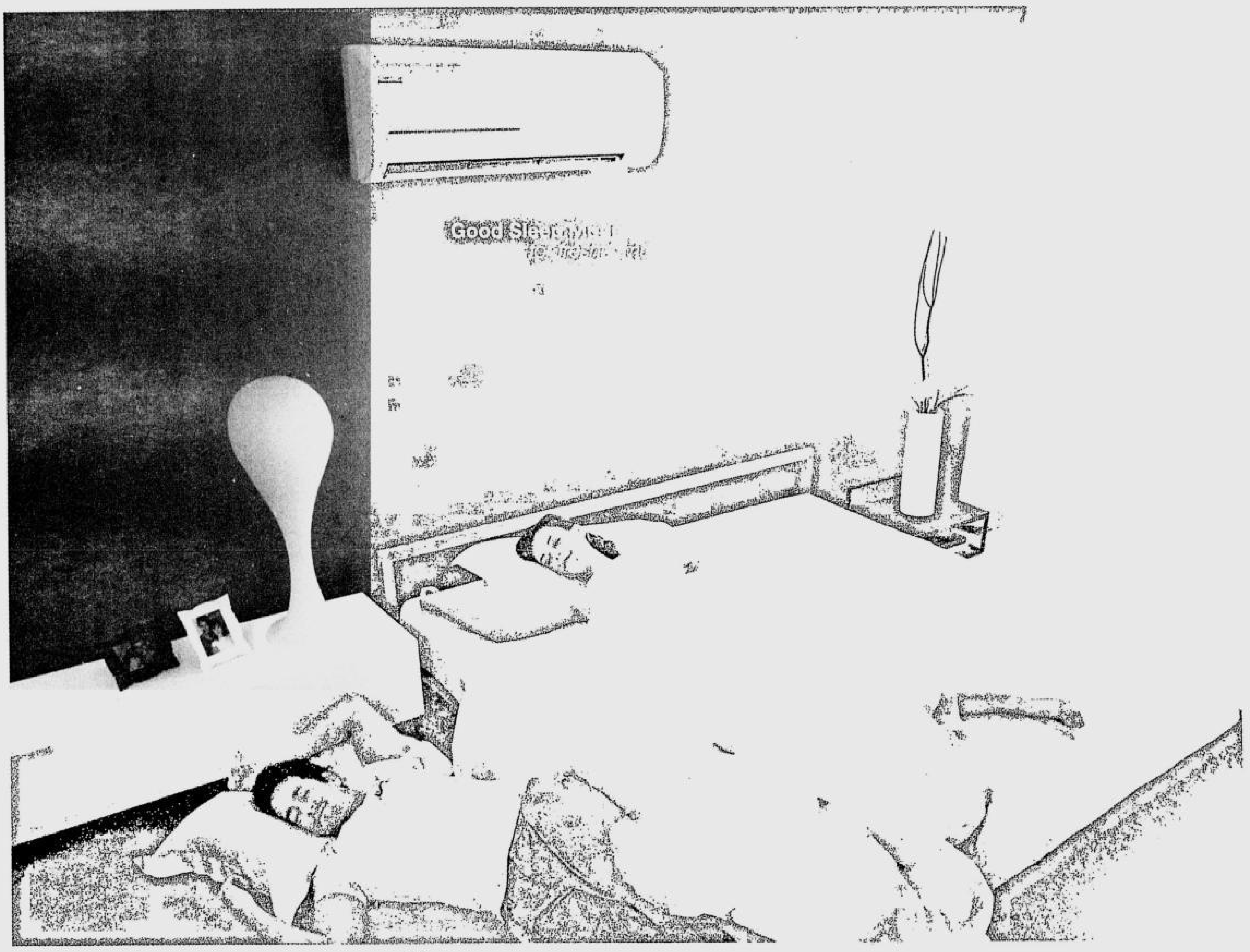

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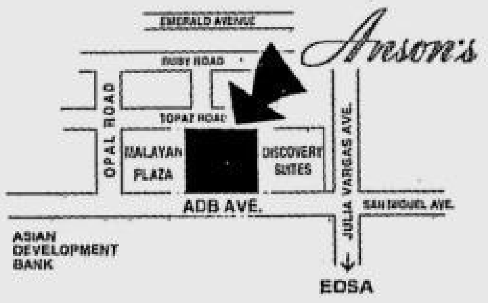
Congratulations to Anson's on its newest and biggert branch!

Anson's: 23 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City Tel.No. 706-1888



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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

German infatuation

By Gregory Bautista

SHE WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL thing I have ever seen in a while.

Her curves were perfect. Starting off from a well rounded top to a soft and supple behind. She was obviously an athlete, judging from her stance and rather broad shoulders. Just one look at those biceps and I knew she could go the distance. I ran my hands through her smooth, slippery skin. It was a wonderful tingling sensation.

I invited her to Tagaytay that afternoon. She didn't deny me the cool mountain air. She had no expectations of me, which was rather strange for a European-a German, in fact. Most Germans of her age and personality would have shrugged me off-me and my smallish Asian built. I had assumed they would like their men rather tall and maybe even rough.

I admit, I was infatuated from the moment I saw her. She oozed with appeal. Despite her rather strong personality, she was quiet and rather submissive.

But she took me in. I was pleasantly surprised on how I had fit into her like the proverbial hand into glove.

I intuitively pushed the right button, squeezed her in the right spot and she burst into life.

And even I seemed to have enjoyed the whole episode. A burst of electricity ran through me each time I positioned myself and she pulled up as if asking for more. I responded quickly, but she was even nimbler.

At Tagaytay, I decided to give her full throttle as I descended the Talisay Ridge en route to Batangas. The long stretch of the STAR Tollway to Lipa City was the perfect conclusion to this first encounter on the road with her.

We were introduced by Bombet Villafuerte, the young but seasoned motorcyclist. He had the perfect job-service advisor of BMW Motorrad. And "she" was the BMW F650 GS. At the time I penned this piece, I heard that RoadTalk's resident "Kill Switch" now cohabitates with her. The lucky brute!

BMW's idea of an enduro bike stretched further than any Japanese bike could have. This is the best of German engineering in brilliantly laid out package that didn't cost a politician's pork barrel to pay.

From the first glance the F650 GS is clearly a dual purpose bike. A high mounted front fender combined into the headlamp and is a permanent fixture. Real dirt and mud cleaning chores are provided by a wheel hugging fender about half an inch clear off the 19-inch wheels. Contact patches on both ends are provided by Metzelers. But I am not sure if this is standard rubber.

About 6 inches of fork travel up front is more than sufficient to soak up most of the rough stuff but is lacking for hardcore off-roading. Rear suspension duties are provided by an Ohlins pre-adjuster with 6.5 inches travel.

Fancy the preload adjuster that provides street smart stiffness with enough adjustment to keep the pitching at bay even with a backride. Twist the giant knob to the other side and you soften up enough for the passageways. A true enduro in the German sense is one that balances-naturally with some compromise in street ability and off-road sense.

One fascinating little detail is the Anti-Lock Brakes. It is idiot proof braking in wet weather and slippery conditions. Adding more fascination is the little switch by the handle bar that allows you to turn off ABS. So situations that demand a grabby brake, such as gravel and loose sand, where lock up on call is desired, the F 650GS can respond.

The single cylinder, twin sparking 650 GS engine does this perfectly. There are 50 horses waiting to be unleashed from the big bore, short-stroking engine that finishes off nicely with 44 lbs of torque per foot at maximum revs of 6500 rpm.

With a ride height of just so tall and a center of gravity just so low, zigzagging through Edsa can be done as adroitly as clearing the bushes of Montalban. Be wary, though. Compared to a Japanese motard, the 650GS is heftier.

Amazingly, though, it feels as nimble as my DR400Z, and could carve both a roost in slippery conditions and carve into a curve with amazing precision. Just make sure you remember to half throttle out, the torque of this darling is wrenching.

What most riders I encounter say is that it lacks the raspy exhaust note big bikes normally have. To heck! She is a thumper and thumps she does! Her short stroking engine will gladly oblige to a throttle twist and cover 140 kilometers in and hour-the distance of Manila to Pangasinan or midway through a local soap opera.

And don't let the twin exhausts fool you. Only one side functions to deliver the burned fossil fuels out. On the right side is a full fledged catalytic converter. She is both ecological and athletic. What's more she will burn the lousiest 91RON regular (still available at your faraway provincial gas station) to the best organic 97RON the pumps can spit out.

If you are the type who would like to forget about the sizzle of Super 4s and roaring R1s for a while to settle down to a robust, athletic, all-around kind of ride, BMW's F 650GS is your mate. She will never fail to please.

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Worried that your life on the road may be too bland and boring? Read on and find out the coolest thing you can do to pump up your motoring life to the red line.

Performance meters

DEFI, THE WORLD'S MOST TRUSTED BRAND IN PRECISION CAR instruments, is now available at SpeedLab. Known to produce the highest quality aftermarket gauges, Defi owners swear by the precision, clarity, and style that only Defi Gauges provide. Defi's patented precision stepper motors ensure accuracy and trouble-free operation. Defi gauges come in white, blue and amber backlights and feature the exclusive Daisy-Link system, making installation a breeze. Drop by Speedlab and see the various gauges which suit the performance requirements of your ride: Boost, Oil Temp, Oil Pressure, Water Temp, Exhaust Temp, Fuel Pressure, Manifold Vacuum and Tachometer. To get your own set of Defi Gauges, call SpeedLab at 376-4648/51 or log on to www.speedlab.com.ph.

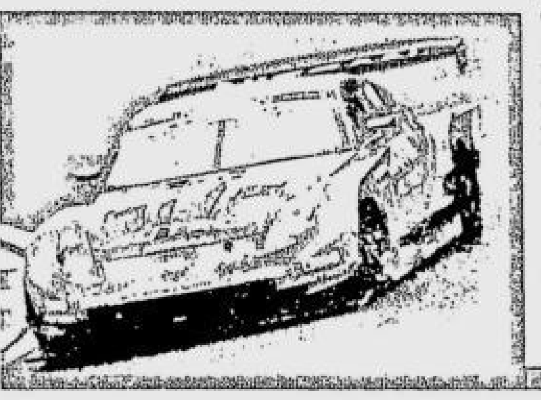
The ultimate oil for victory

AFTER 150 YEARS OF PRODUCT RESEARCH and testing, Motul has come up with a formulation that delivers both performance and reliability-the Double Ester Technology found in Motul's 300V fully synthetic series of motor oils.

With the race tracks of the world as its proving ground, Motul oils and lubricants is a standard requirement by racing teams (Nismo, Takata Dome NSX and Kraft racing Bandai) competing in the Japan Super GT, recognized as one of the world's toughest and most prestigious racing series.

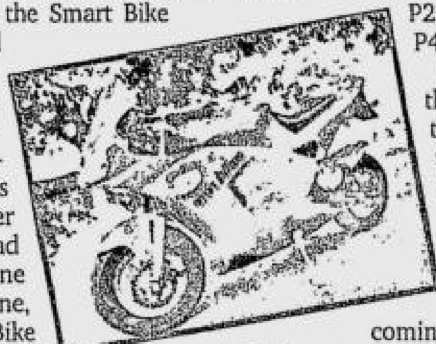
Motul 300V is made up of complex ester which is composed of positively and negatively charged polymer molecules that is electrically absorbed into metal surfaces and stay on metal surfaces to create a strong film protection even long after the engine has stopped running. Motul's Double Ester technology significantly improves output performance by carefully balancing the ratio of complex ester with the newly developed macromolecular high polymer ester developed by Motul. By maintaining high film strength, the 300V series is able to withstand long-term shearing loads and sustain the oil's advanced lubricating properties. The harshest environments for oils occur around the piston and combustion chambers. The 300V series was designed to perform in these engine areas, which are subjected to extreme heat conditions that often exceed the "safe zone" of traditional lubricants. Coupled with ester polymer compound designed with high molecular strength to withstand constant shearing of oil, it maintains viscosity even at extremely high engine temperatures, the advanced lubricating properties ensuring minimal friction and flow resistance during high RPM. It is literally like a smart oil tailor made to serve its purpose.

Motul is a certified, recommended and the oil of choice of racing teams that compete in the Japan Super GT, World Rallye Championship (WRC), 24-Hour Le Mans, Asia-Pacific Rallye Championship (APRC) and the Moto GP. For details on how to improve your car's performance, call 726-0399 or visit Autoplus Sportzentrium at 233 Edsa, Mandaluyong City or log on to www.motul.com.ph.



An eco-friendly alternative

AS AN ANSWER TO VOLATILE fuel prices, Hummer Philippines Inc (HPI) is offering a practical and eco-friendly alternative, the Electric Scooter/Smart Bike. Imported and exclusively distributed by HPI, the Smart Bike looks and runs like your standard scooter. The difference lies in its power unit. Instead of a gasoline fed engine, the Smart Bike is powered by a 450-watt motor, juiced up by a 36V/12Ah battery unit. It's a plug, charge and play motorized bike.



At present, HPI has five variants of the Smartbikes: the Scootbike, which looks like your average scooter; the rugged and tough Dirtbike; the four wheeled Mini All Terrain Vehicle (ATV), the Segway-style Torqbike and the crowd favorite, the pint size sport bike, which looks like a miniature Moto GP motorcycle.

Most of the bikes are lightweight and has a baggage compartment at the rear. On an average speed of 20 kph, the bikes can cover 35 km on a full charge. The Smartbikes derive its power from Panasonic sealed lead acid 36V batteries. When you twist the throttle, all you can hear is the subtle hum of the electric engine. "The Smartbikes are becoming more popular with young families and housewives. You don't have to bring out the car to buy something from the corner grocery or when borrowing a film from your favorite video store a few kilometers away," says Benedict Gom of Hummer Philippines. SRPs of these standard looking e-bikes cost between P22,000 to P42,000.

The good thing about this bike is that it has zero emissions and the noise that it emits is a faint hum coming from its battery powered unit. It is the perfect clean and green machine. Since the top speed ranges from 20 to 35 kph, e-bike riders cannot afford to be speed freaks, making it safe.

All e-bikes require a charging time of four to six hours. "HPI has a complete line of spare parts and batteries. All bikes come with a warranty. It has no engine so it does not have to be registered with the Land Transportation Office," states Benedict Go of HPI.

It is also a cool transport for that early pandesal run to the local bakery. For those who love the environment and want to be different, the Smart-bike is the right bike for you. It comes in different colors and styles to suit your everyday requirements. Finally, there's a convenient, eco-friendly and affordable alternative solution to commuting from point A to B, without the extra gasoline expenses. For details on how to look cool, contact Hummer Philippines Inc at 716-0348/713-1998 or log on to www.hummerphilippines.com.

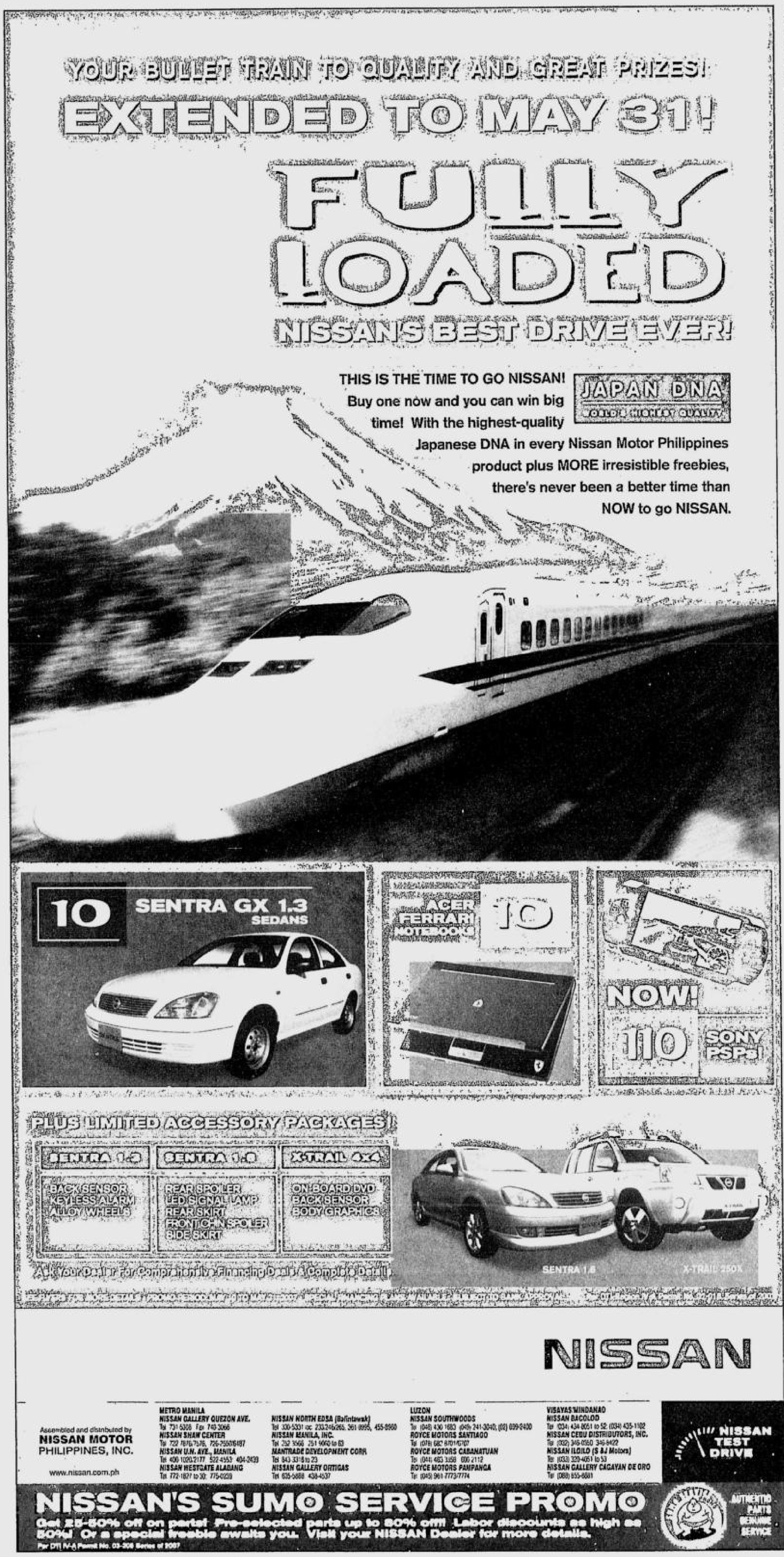
Explore with Thule

DESIGNED TO MAKE traveling more convenient and pleasurable for your family, Thule has come up with a new bike rack carrier, the EuroClassic G5, which is geared towards active individuals and families who like to explore the great outdoors. Thule provides you with the solution to maximize the load capacity of your car, AUV or SUVs. Unlike locally manufactured load carriers, Thule has an easy snap on, snap off feature which lets you install the load carriers with ease.

The Thule EuroClassic G5 takes the No. 1 spot when it comes to towbar-mounted bike carriers. This easy to mount and dismount bike carrier is clean-cut, with simple lines that make the EuroClassic a strong design statement on any modern car. Add outstandingly easy mounting and handling, exceptional stability and safety and you have the ideal bike carrier for holidays and long, relaxing cycle trips. With Thule, there's no drilling required, it's guaranteed safe from rust, and is wind-tunnel tested to aerodynamically complement the exterior design of any vehicle. Thule's line of load carriers are 100-percent machine made from Sweden and has passed the four seasons test of the ISO.

The EuroClassic G5 is easy to use, and a new smart tilt function enables convenient boot access even with the bikes in place. Thule's patented locking mechanism assures the utmost security on any type of bike and can be mounted on SUVs with an external spare tire via a special adapter.

For more information on how to gear up and make your vacation a more adventurous one, load up and visit the display at the Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue (744-6367) and Pasong Tamo (892-7847), or log on to www.thule.com.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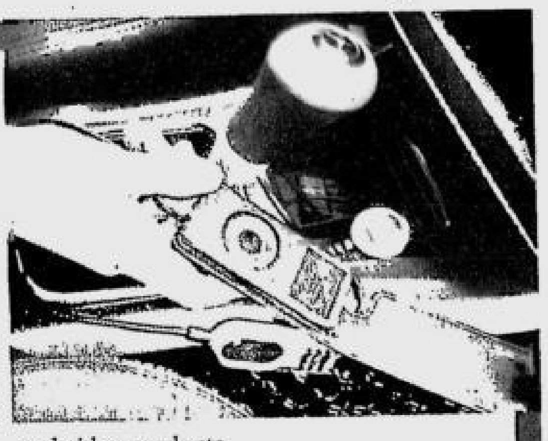
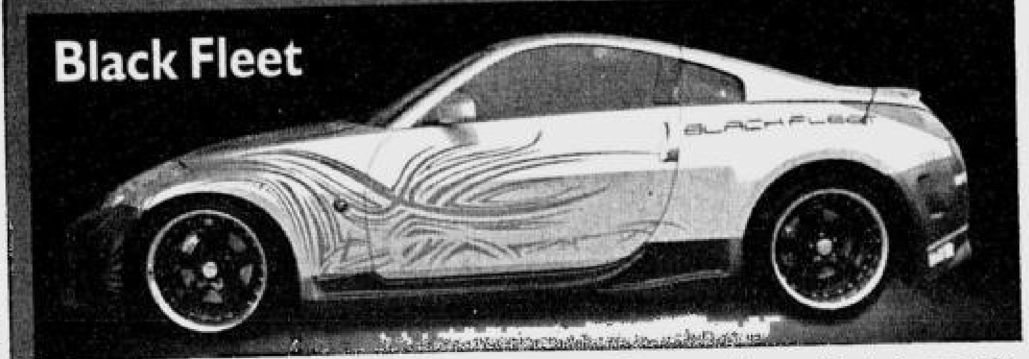


FROM THE WORLD'S FOREMOST authority in audio and video cable now comes Monster Cable's iCar Wireless Plus technology. The iCar Play is a wireless gadget specifically designed for your iPod. It is so easy to use, just plug the iCar Play to your iPod, set the radio tuner to a specified frequency of the iCar Play and plug the unit into your car's 12V cigarette lighter. You are then ready to hit the open roads with an ingenious in-car entertainment.

The system comes with an innovative transmitter that allows the iCar Play to have the flexibility in getting the best interference free sound. "Simply tune your car radio to any clear FM station, tune in the iCar Play Wireless Plus to a preset station, hit play on your iPod and you're ready to roll. If some interference is evident, choose from one of the three programmable presets of the iCar Play any time you need a clearer station," explains Wilson So, president of Eleksis Corp and the exclusive distributor of Bose and Monster Cable audio and video products.

The iCar Play is equipped with a patented Dock Connecter which is compatible with any of Apple's iPod variant which ranges from the iPod Nano, iPod Mini, iPod video, iPod photo, iPod U2, up to the 3rd and 4th generation iPod with Dock. Monster iCar Play comes in two variants whose price tag ranges from P5,500 and up to the high end Wireless Plus which cost P6,300. Monster Cable's line of iCar Play and iPod accessories are available in all Bose outlets at the SM Megamall, Rockwell Mall, Glorietta 3, SM Mall of Asia, SM West and at SM Edsa's the Block, or call 724-9566/898-2048 or log on to www.eleksis.com.

Black Fleet



WHEEL GALLERY, THE EXCLUSIVE distributor of Concept One, Nitto tires, Petrol Wheels, Black Rhino and Twenty Inches Strong (TiS) wheels, introduces the Black Fleet. Manufactured by Rays Engineering of Japan, Black Fleet is one of the most sought after wheels in the Japanese VIP style market. Every Black Fleet premium line wheel comes with the build quality and cutting edge design from Rays Engineering. The signature two-piece lightweight rolled aluminum rims with forged center design feature of the Black Fleet gives you the ultimate combination of premium quality, strength and lightness for premium automobiles.

"Each 2-piece Black Fleet is quality tested to the highest quality forging standards prior to and during the manufacturing and chroming process" ; "We're featuring staggered fitment of the new black-chrome Shinano design, it totally gives your high-end European luxury car the look of authority it deserves." explains Sammy Liuson of Wheel Gallery.

Installed on the Nissan 350Z (Fairlady) is the Black Fleet Tosa design with a staggered fitment of 19 x 8.5 for the front and 19 x 9.5 for the rear with Nitto Invo tires.

All tuner wheel variants sold in Wheel Gallery have been certified by the Japan Wheel License (JWL, JWL-T), Vehicle Inspection Association (VIA), Specialty Equipment Manufacturer's Association (Sema), ISO9000, QS9000 and TUV.

For inquiries, visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road corner M. Paterno, San Juan or call 724-2739 or 726-0965, or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

KILL Switch

The backride

By Raymond Tribdino

EVOLVING FROM BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES WERE originally designed as very personal single transportation. The saddle, having come from a design originally penned for horses, was selfish and egoistic. Luckily, someone had a fantastic idea of adding more leather to the saddle to seat two people. Whoever that blessed soul is unknowingly also added the phrase "back ride" to any decent motorcyclist's vocabulary. And in the process forever changed what the freedom of a motorcycle meant to the rider.

"Back ride," changes its significance and sentiment depending on whoever the passenger is. It is used with great emotion to describe the girlfriend (or in rare cases a boyfriend) with helmet, jacket and communicator, riding astride with arms tightly wrapped around the rider's hips or waist. We call them "just plain scared." After a couple of times in the back saddle they become "frigid."

The connotation is totally different when describing the local SWAT team back ride. He is a firearm-toting, Kevlar-suited sharpshooter. They are known as "riding shotgun." Big bike riders have their beautiful girls in leather shorts, long, straight hair dancing out of their half-face helmets as the bikes hit top speed on the open road. We call these back rides "trophies."

At times I see policemen transporting un-helmeted female passengers even along the South Super Highway with bravado. We can merely refer to these back rides as "daring" and the policemen motorcyclists as "off duty." (That is the excuse, at least, I get from one of them when I tailed one all the way to the Calamba provincial station.)

Wives as back rides are oftentimes not paid attention to. The husband wears the helmet while the wife dons a cap or oftentimes just a hair band. (So much for "to love and protect…") Sometimes the husband refuses to have the wife wrap her arms around her waist. In many cases, as in my case, the "belly wrap" becomes physically impossible as the inches around my waist exceed the length of both Ludi's arms. In any case, husbands please take care of your wives.

Children, on the other hand, must be treated with great care when they share the saddle with us. It is very often that I see whole families, wives and two kids on a bike, with the little baby squashed between Adam and Eve while the little boy precariously perched in front grasping the handlebars. This situation courts a lot of danger especially when on the open road.

As I define some types of back rides, let me also declare that mothers (including mothers-in-law) and grandmothers are the best kind of back rides. Unfortunately my own mother has NEVER ridden shotgun with me. Mainly because my first bike-an RM125-lacked a footpeg and stood as tall as a horse. My mother-in-law, on the other hand, is a veteran backrider-logging thousands of kilometers (San Pablo to Manila via the old highway on a Honda Cub with my dad-in-law, who mind you, on the same bike did Bicol regularly. Now HE deserves another story.)

Sadly though, the general feeling from most riders is that they treat the matronly back ride with little passion, as if transporting them were a chore more than a pleasure. One friend of mine describes them as "a sack of rice."

A nice bike will always get a nice looking back ride. This is according to my longtime riding buddy Ching Sambilay, who's good looking Honda Hornet 600 brings in the babes like a magnet. "I never pay attention to them, though," he claims. "They just come and have their pictures taken on my bike." Good boy, Chinggoy.

When I was younger and more adventurous I would ask the members of the opposite sex, "what kind of ride do you want?" when they ask "can you give me a ride"? These days very few girls ask me that question.

And to this day some of my lady officemates-pretty and mostly attached, still ask me if they could ride my bike. I wonder why it doesn't work for my beautiful wife though. I had always wanted Ludi to be my passenger on a long, saddle-sore causing ride (I bought her an expensive helmet and jacket specifically for this purpose) on any of my bikes. Come to think of it, she has ridden with me only a total of seven times in our 15 years of marriage. In between that I have had 12 bikes and five children. That isn't good mathematics. Or is it?

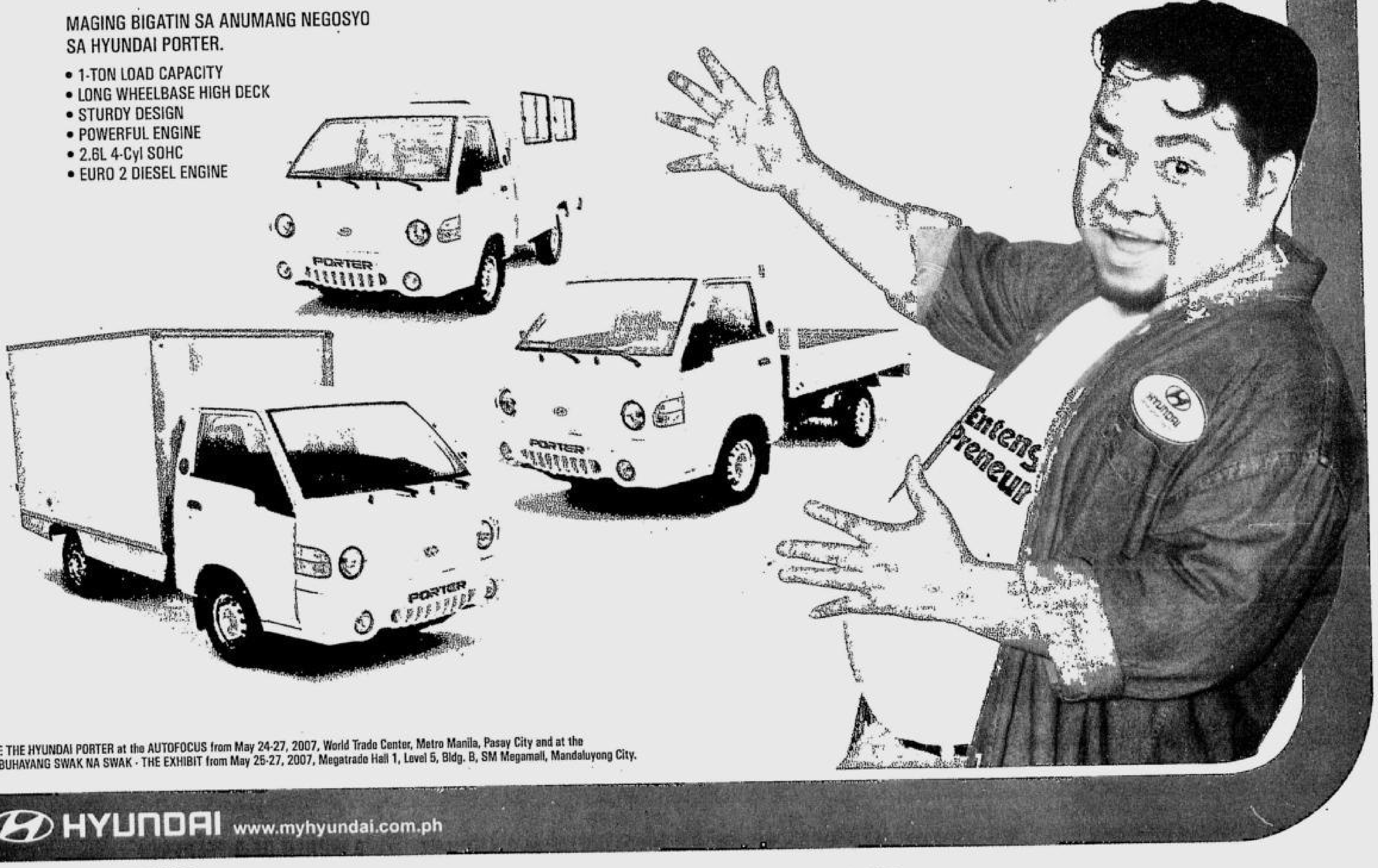
Illuminating issues

Xenon Bulbs pioneered the High Intensity Discharge Lighting (HID) in the local aftermarket by making it both available and affordable to the tuners. After Xenon Bulbs' (www.xenonbulbs.com) Benedict Go started his "illuminating business," many other brands introduced themselves.

Good and healthy competition has made Xenon Bulbs more innovative, bringing in a mind-blowing array of HID products designed for almost every make of vehicle. The competition however has gone sour. One particular company has introduced and even branded an HID product of the same name.

Not only is this a clear business infringement, it also destroys the reputation of one of the most respected names in the local aftermarket industry. Kill Switch can only surmise about the quality of this mislabeled HID headlamp. Buyers beware! If you don't get your bulbs from the original source Hummer Philippines at 341 G. Araneta Avenue with telephone numbers 716-0347 and 713-1998, be wary! You could face a headlight-less drive home. Or worse an electrical fire.

For comments and suggestions, please e-mail me at killswitch_roadtalk@gmail.com.



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HYUNDAI Genuine Parts

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI:
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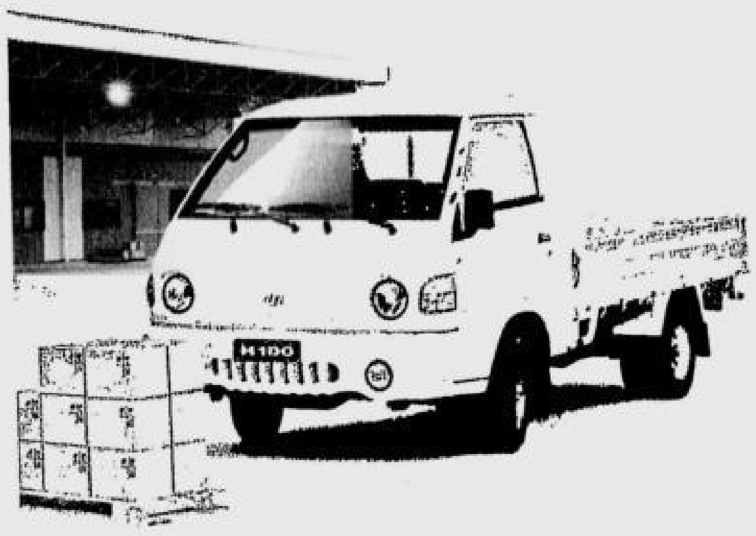
Hari introduces the Hyundai Porter



FOR HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES INC (Hari), the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the country, one flag is not enough to uphold its rallying call, PRO Negosyo!

Since last year, Hari has set out in a social campaign called the PRO Negosyo Movement. This has signified Hari's resolute commitment to actively participate in promoting entrepreneurship, particularly in the Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) level, as it largely contributes in toughening the economy. In a press launch October last year, Hari revealed its first flag, the Starex PRO-the stylish yet functional transport machine for any type of business.

Now, Hari brings out its second flag to bolster its battle cry for entrepreneurship-the Hyundai Porter.

A one-ton, single-cab commercial light truck, the Hyundai Porter offers itself as the reliable concierge that will help SMEs make it big in their trades.

With 5-speed manual transmission mounted on a 2.6-liter diesel engine that produces maximum power output of 79ps at 4000 rpm and maximum torque of 17 kg.m at 2200 rpm, the Hyundai Porter gives ample strength and acceleration not only for good cruising ability and drivability on the highway but also for reliable mounting on the steepest slope, even if it is weighed down with a full one-ton payload.

Delivering your cargo to any point in the country is made safer and more comfortable. The Hyundai Porter acquires fade-free 14-inch ventilated front disc brakes and self-adjusting duo-server drum type rear brakes that help bring it to a safe, quick stop. Steering is light and precise with a tight 4.7-meter turning radius for good maneuverability. Further, Hyundai offers tilt and power steering as optional features for your Porter to make driving a whole lot easier, especially for those long out-of-town deliveries.

The Hyundai Porter is notably designed to help you carry out your business transport activities proficiently. Box frame steel rails make the Porter less weighty without compromising its strength. Its wheelbase is longer than its competitors, giving more cargo space so you can load up anything that your business may require. Good aerodynamic design efficiently manages air flow over the nose to reduce air turbulence and noise, therefore, protecting your valued cargo and giving you a smooth and secure drive. Even quadrant-type side mirror is compact for improved aerodynamics and has a convex surface for improved visibility while speeding on the road.

The large circular headlamps lend a unique character. A simple yet strong design that has functional merits, the Hyundai Porter can cruise on any road with confidence and reassurance that it is plain serious when it comes to your business.

Inside the cabin, cockpit-style instrument panel is designed to minimize driver's eye and hand movements, thus reducing distractions and making driving safer and easier. Multipoint air vents ensure even heating or cooling throughout cabin for a more comfortable journey.

With the Hyundai Porter as your transport partner, you can perform your business activities efficiently. Aside from its features and capabilities, the Hyundai Porter has passed the strict fuel and emission tests of the Euro 2 standards for light commercial vehicles. You can be certain that you don't cause harm while pursuing your business goals.

The Hyundai Porter is priced at only P525,000. It is available at all Hari dealerships strategically located nationwide so you can have convenient access for purchase and even for their excellent after-sales services.

"Bigatin sa Negosyo, Magaan sa Presyo". With Hari's unwavering support for entrepreneurs, the Hyundai Porter becomes an essential business partner.

Ask GIBS

Mechanic-at-large Giby Yalung answers your most pressing automotive problems

Dear Gibs,

I recently bought a used 2005 Civic A/T DOHC i-Vtec. The car is fully loaded with oodles of accessories. I even got it at a bargain because the owner is a would-be brother-in-law (he upgraded to the new 2007 paddle shift model).

My only concern is that the car is loaded with "racer" items such as 18-inch mags, "tabo" mufflers and free flow air filters that look like megaphones. Not only is the car very low and stiff, it consumes a lot of gas (consumes more than our V6 sedan) and is very noisy. My question is, would it be hard to put it back to "normal" without removing the fancy goodies he placed?

Juanito of San Juan

Dear Juanito,

What you have is a prime example of racer boy car. It has all the goodies the typical "Fast and Furious" sport compact car would entail. It's true that they look nice and fancy but they do give you a lot of headaches or problems because they aren't factory installed items.

To bring the comfort and economy back to the original design, you'll just have to give up these goodies. The most important items you'll have to return is the original mags and springs and muffler. This will make your car comfortable. I don't recommend the megaphone airfilter and others because it might ruin the very expensive i-Vtec twincam engine with dirt and foreign matter.

Gibs

For your concerns and comments, e-mail Gibs at askgibs.roadtalk@yahoo.com.

Chevrolets on display at Glorietta

Visit Chevrolet's display at the Glorietta Mall from May 25 to 27 and avail yourself of exciting promotions. Vehicles on display are the new Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe, Chevrolet Optra SS sedan and wagon.

Honda sizzles with 'HOT to Drive'

HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC (HCPI) announces this month's "H.O.T." promo that is packed with great deals and exciting perks.

Honda City continues to captivate with its highly fuel efficient i-DSI engine and huge cargo capacity. Its ULT seats allow different configuration to give space for big luggage for the family's travel. Plus, get P15,000 savings on every purchase of the Honda City.

The Honda Jazz comes with funky appeal and excellent fuel consumption, just right for new grads and yuppies with active lifestyles. Jazz buyers get a free 4GB i-Pod, which can store up to 1000 songs. Enjoy the drive with your favorite songs anytime, anywhere.

Purchase an awesome 2.0 MT Civic. Enjoy the benefits of driving a powerful sedan with sporty racing spirit and color. Get the 2.0 MT Civic with zero-percent interest and 3-year LTO engine.

Customers can also enjoy friendly financing scheme plans. For as low as P6,226 a month, drive home a Honda City with 50-percent downpayment. For a minimum cash outlay of only P97,500 bring home the trendy Jazz 1.3S MT.

City, Jazz, and Civic enthusiasts can enjoy the fun under the sun with delightful treats that include low monthly payment schemes and downpayment plans for as low as 15 percent.

Promo period runs until May 31 only. For more information, see posters and print ads for more details.

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Jenni Epperson
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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION

Lady luxe

Kashieca premieres a new line that promises to take its reputation for casual dressing a step higher

IN FASHION, THERE ARE A few words that should not be tossed about too loosely.

For example, when local designers carelessly throw around terms like "couture" for a new collection, they are immediately held suspect and are subject to scrutiny.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

"Top" is another description I find hard to trust, as with "luxury," "classic" and "prestigious." I find it amusing how everybody these days is a self-proclaimed "model," "artist" or "talent."

I always ask, by whose definition?

Which brings me to my point: Kashieca Luxe. The successful women's clothing label premieres a new line that promises to take its reputation for casual dressing a step higher. Luxe—now tread (and thread) carefully!

How does Kashieca interpret Luxe, which, by definition, refers to an elegance and refinement of living that's more a function of desire than necessity? Kashieca expresses this sense with its use of fabric and finish, along with heightened fashion cues.

My verdict? The new collection shows off impeccable style.

Merging old inspirations with a modern affluent sensibility, the pieces form an innovative recreation of timeless concepts. I believe the affirmation of Luxe is in understated

LADY/ C2

Campus queens

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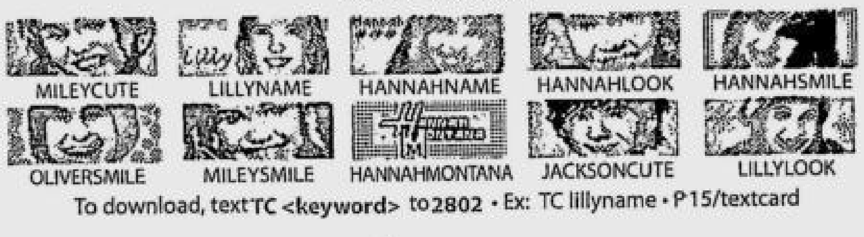

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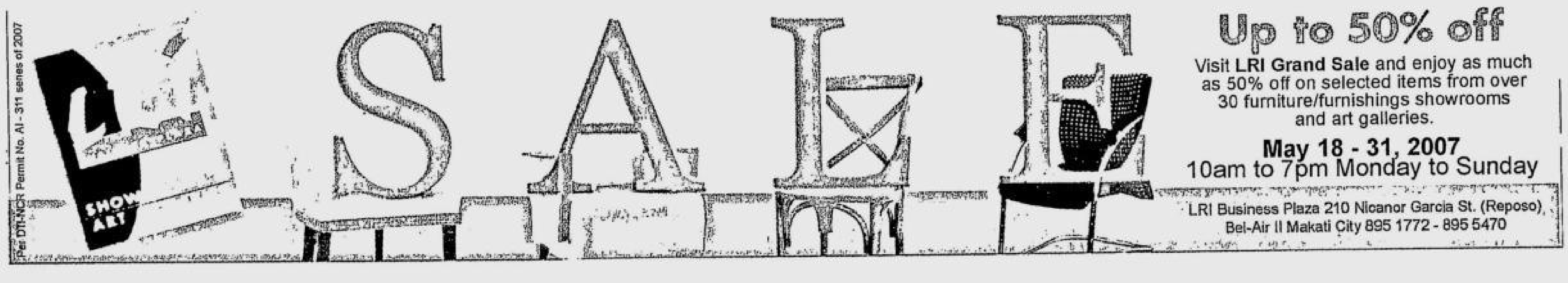
Hannah Montana CD's Out Now! ©Disney 2007. All Rights Reserved.

Catch Hannah Montana on Disney Channel.

girl, ang lakas mo sa Globe



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI - 311 series of 2007

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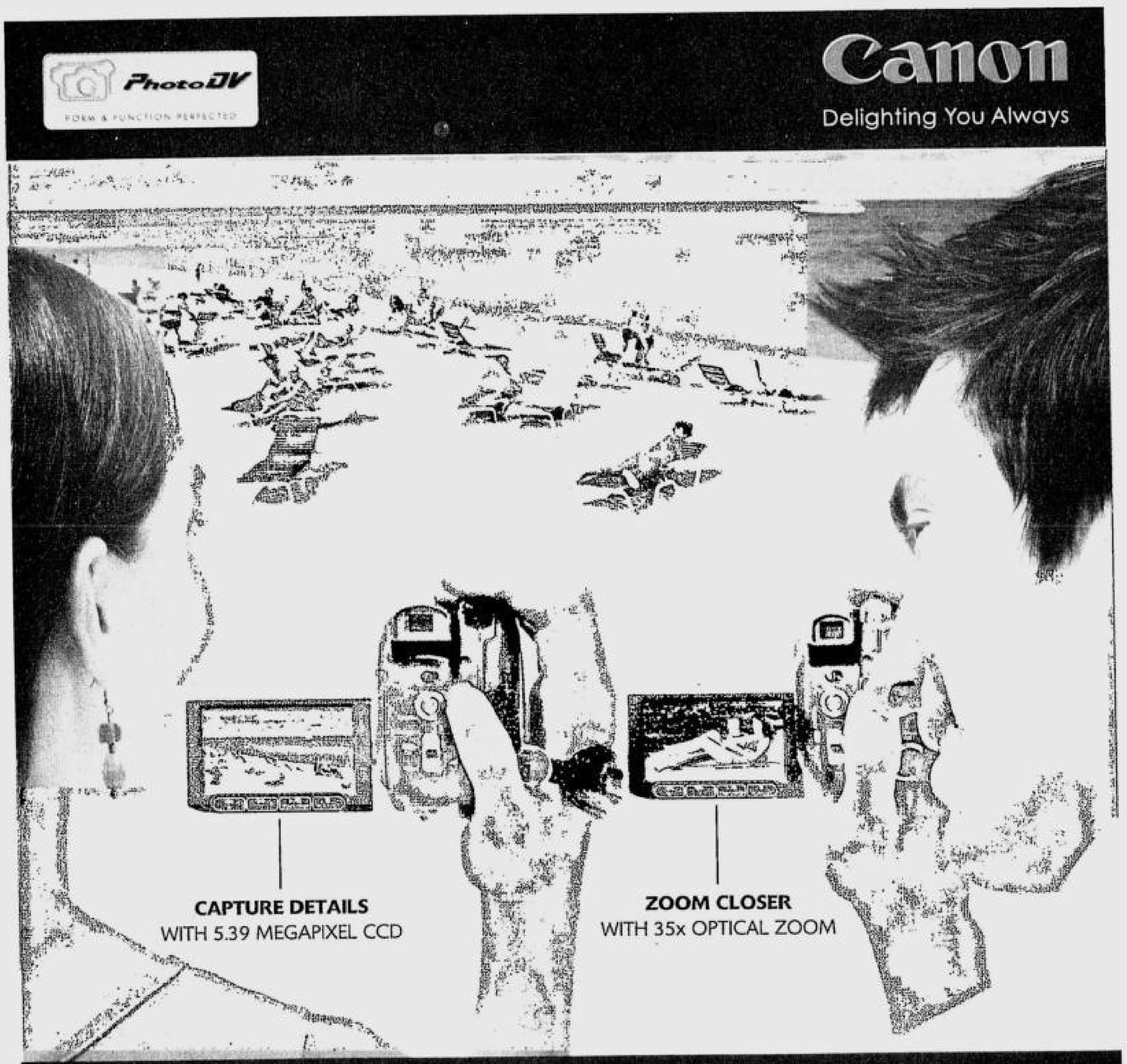

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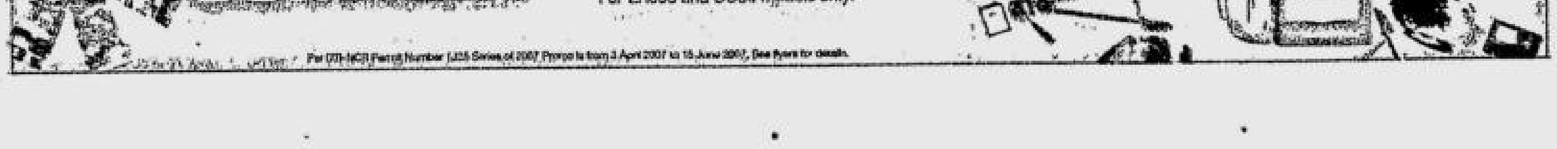
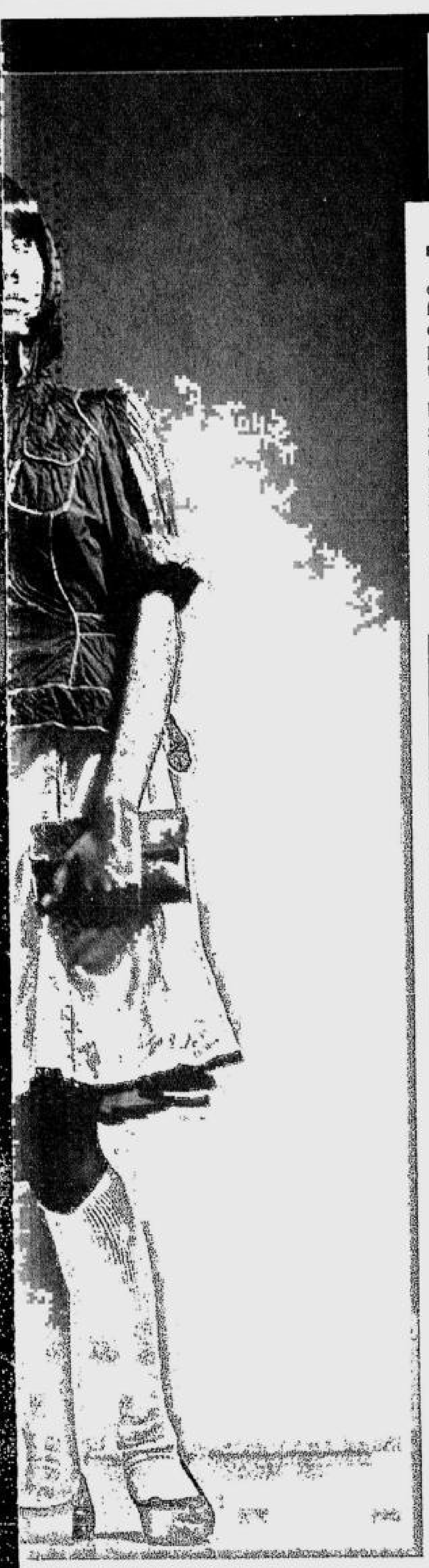


For ZR850 and DC50 models only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit Number [illegible] Series of 2007 Promo is from 3 April 2007 to 15 June 2007. See flyers for details.



Lady luxe

From page C1

embellishment. This can be seen in Kashieca's fabrics and in their unique detailing, like coquettish ribbons, brooch-like accents, and appliqués in the blouses and tops. Same for buttons textured with a distressed patina.

Traditional pinstripes, which have long been a staple of the masculine long-sleeve shirt, are given a softer touch with a feminine cut and puff sleeves. The result is a transformed polo shirt, feminized with woven hemlines, different patterns and appliqué embellishments.

Even round skirts, this season's rage, get an opulent treatment with tasseled hemlines (surprisingly tasteful) and contrast stitching.

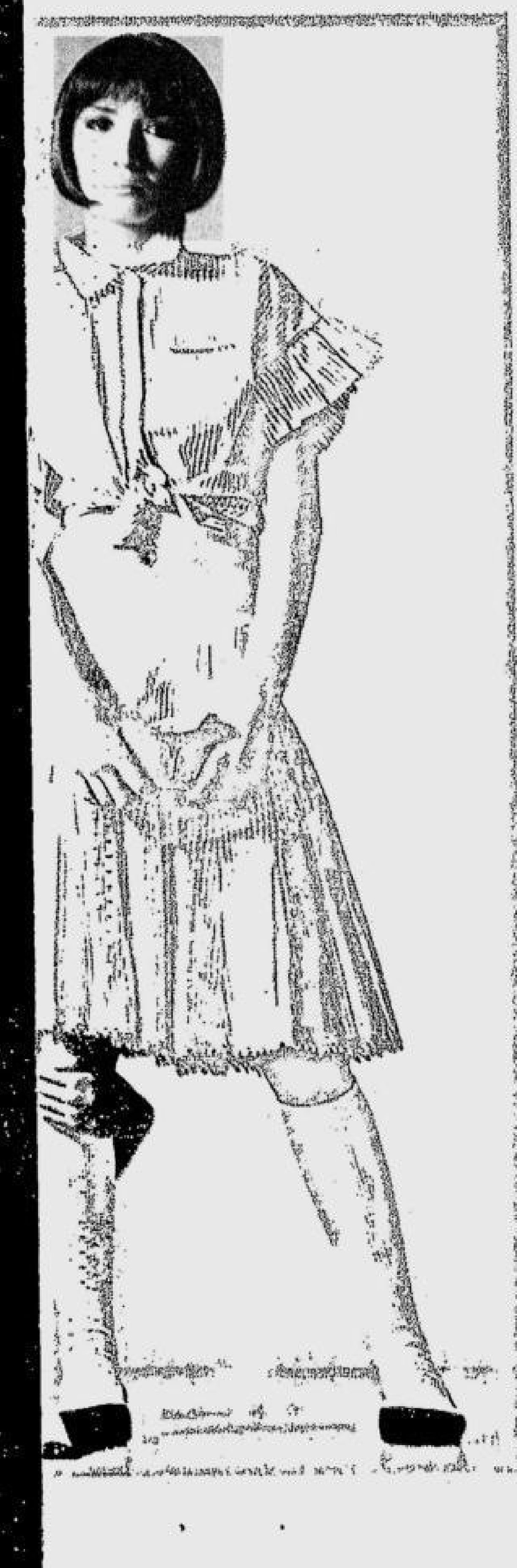
Another take on a timeless classic piece involves denim. Here, denim takes on a liveliness in key pieces of cropped jackets and pants. The utilitarian and ubiquitous fabric is given that luxurious treatment with buttons, sequins, appliqué and embroidery.

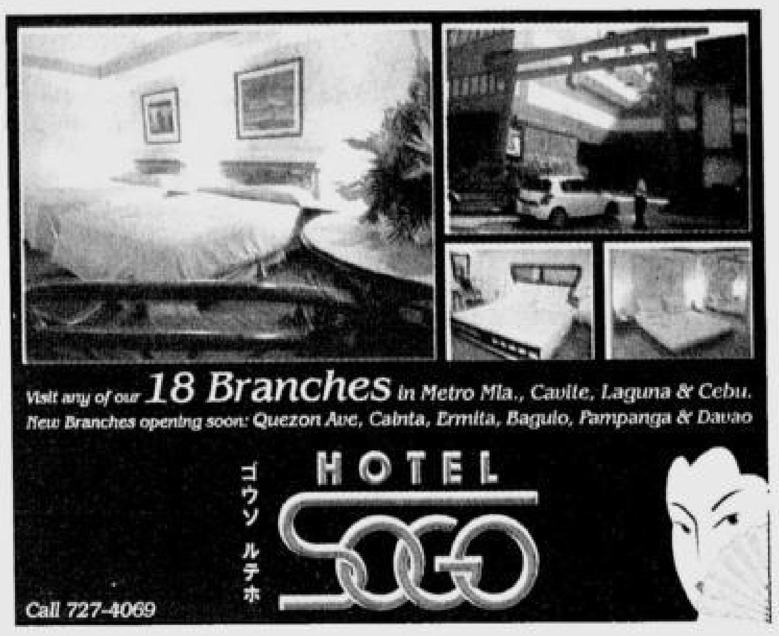
Necessity? No. Desire? A resounding yes!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

The Kashieca Luxe line is available in the following branches: Glorietta, Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Power Plant Mall, Gateway, Shangri-La Plaza, SM Manila, SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa, SM San Lazaro, SM Southmall, The Podium and Trinoma.

Photography Tom Epperson of Snapbox
Unit 255, 2/L, Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Styling Jenni Epperson
Hair and makeup Jigs Mayuga of L'Oreal Paris
Models Joy Pagurayan and Mira Baino of Philippines' Next Top Model
Clothes Kashieca Luxe





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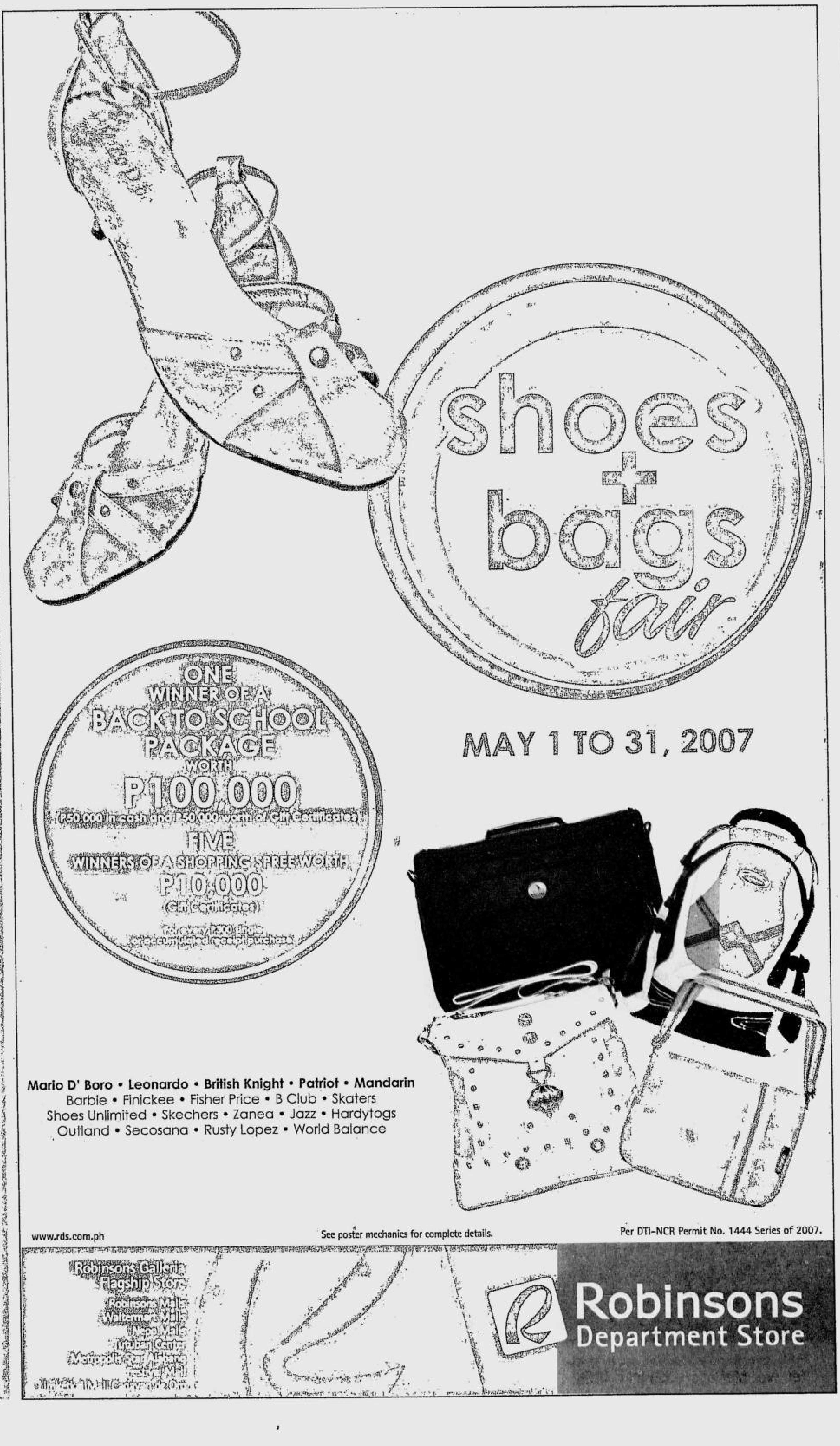

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See poster mechanics for complete details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1444 Series of 2007.

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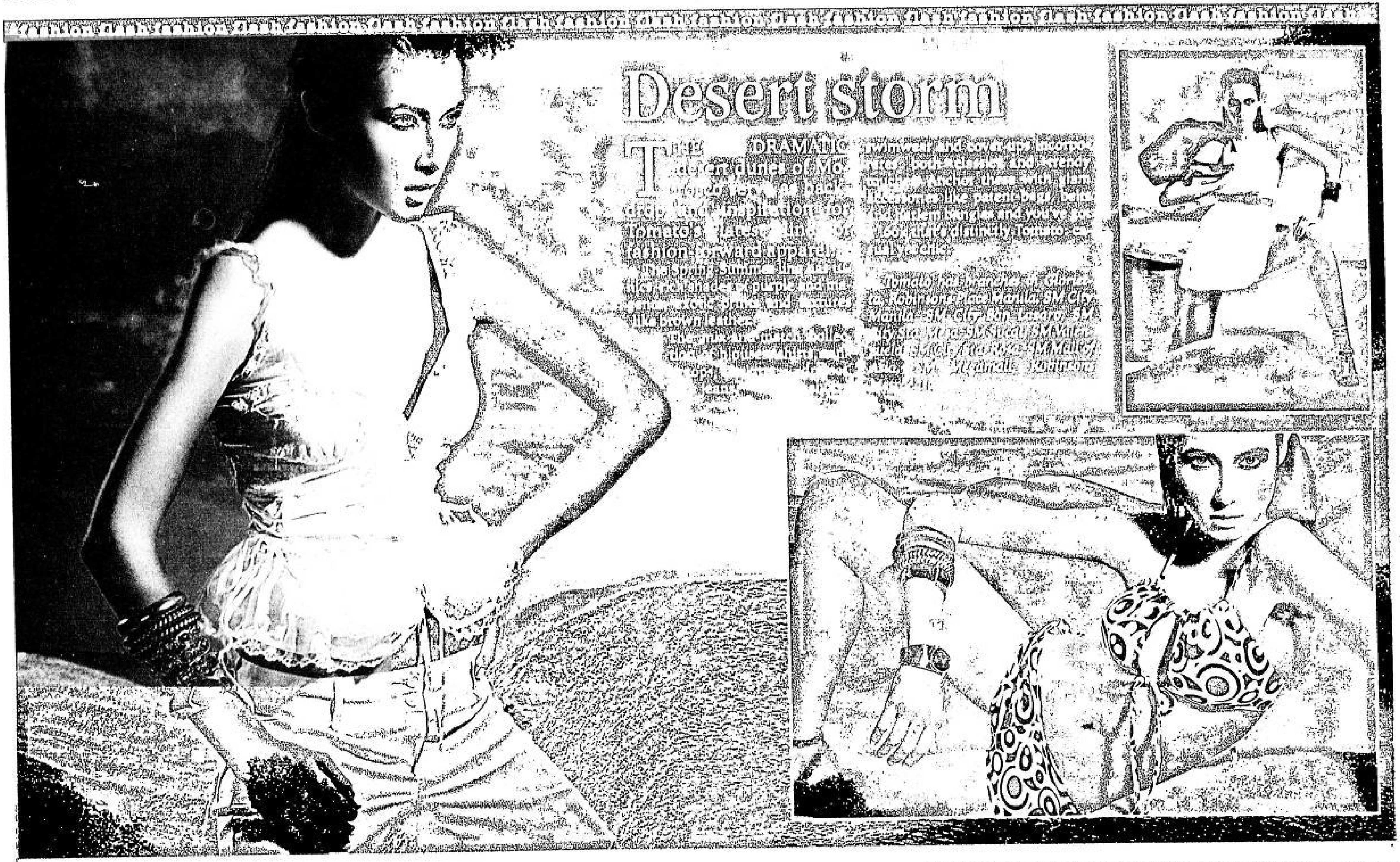
fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash fashion flash

Desert storm

THE DRAMATIC desert dunes of Mo[illegible] backdrop and inspiration for Tomato's latest line of fashion-forward apparel. [illegible]

[illegible] swimwear and cover-ups incorporate [illegible] [illegible]

Tomato is available at [illegible] Robinsons Place Manila, SM City Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM [illegible]

SPPI and VPMI Receive PEZA Environmental Performance Award

In recognition of its environmental management system in LISP I and LISP II, Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI) and Vector Property Managers, Inc. (VPMI) have been given by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) its third Outstanding Environmental Performance Award this 12th of April 2007. Receiving the award from DTI Secretary, Peter Favila (center) and Director General of PEZA, Lilia De Lima (left) is Guillermo D. Luchangco (right), Chairman & CEO of SPPI.

The award is given to companies who have excelled in their operations and activities by complying with environmental regulations and standards, and undertaking environmental projects aimed at conserving resources, minimizing pollution, reducing and recycling waste, and increasing environmental awareness. Among the notables projects in LISP I and LISP II are the Park-Wide Waste Management Program, project Blue Sky for Clean Air, Environmental Education for Elementary Students, and Earth Day Celebration activities. LISP I and LISP II are ISO 14001 Certified industrial parks.

SPPI and VPMI have also been recipients of the PEZA Environmental Performance Award in 2002 and 2004.

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SGS

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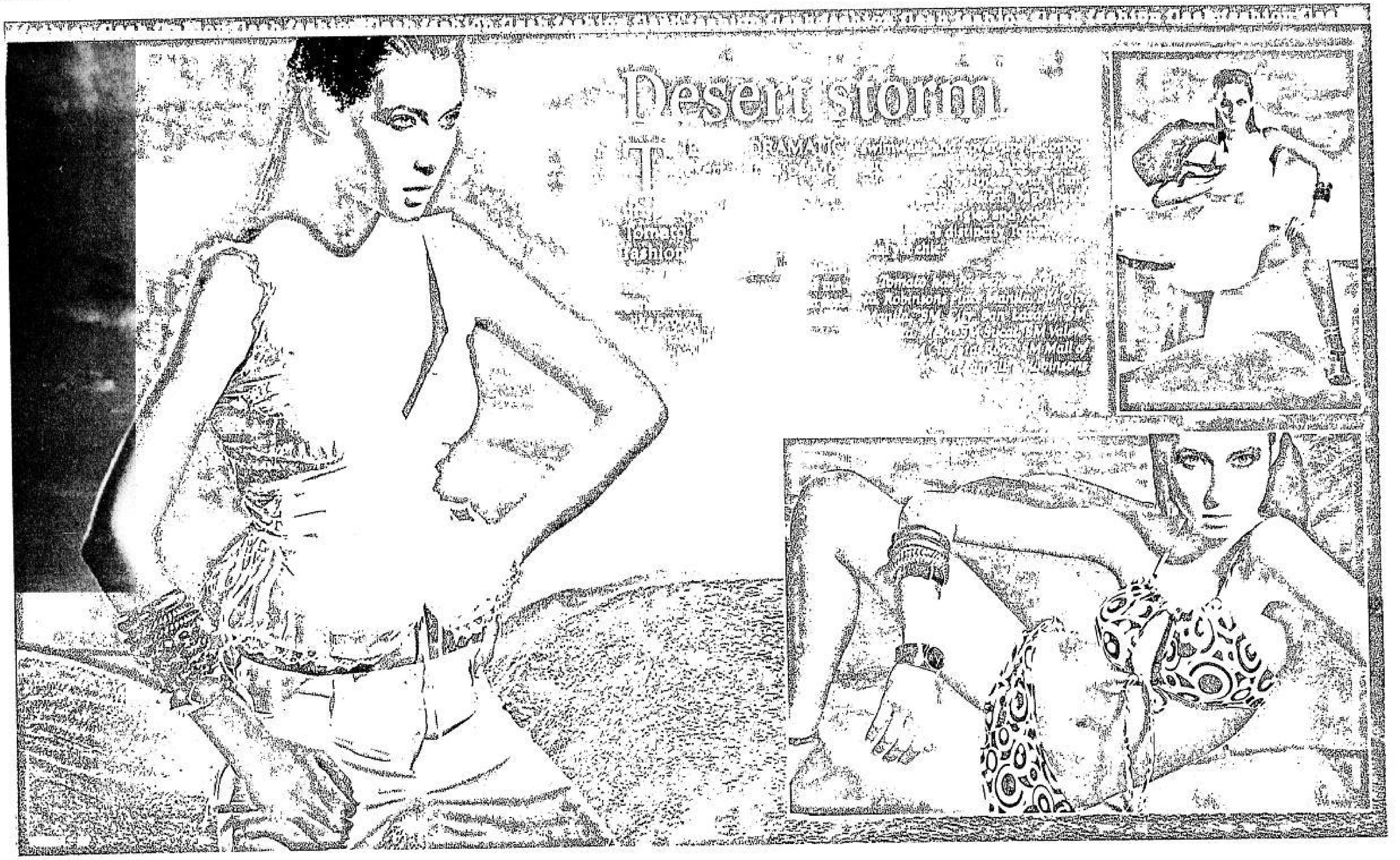

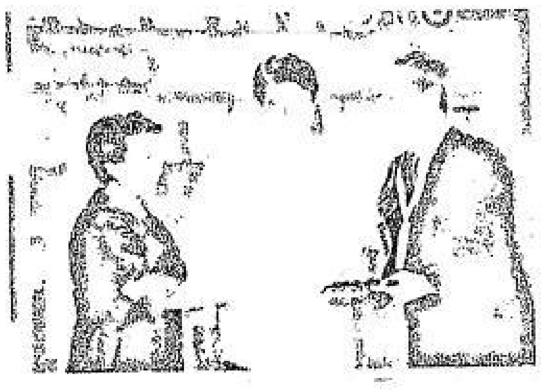

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FASHION

On board the Marrakesh express

LONG opulent coat over bikini

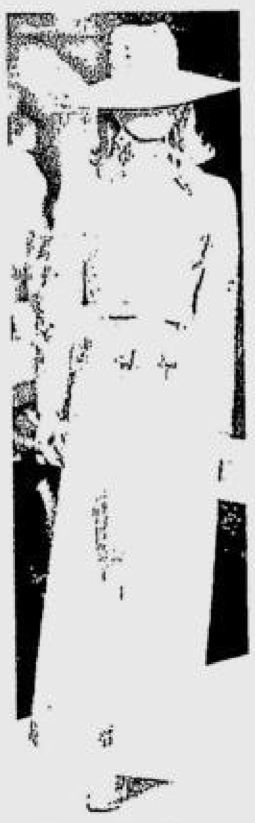
THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY were stylishly en route to Morocco or India, in opulent, embroidered Nehru coats and paisley shifts. They were standouts in a souk in psychedelic leopard prints or '60s-inspired short dresses.

The collection was signature John Galliano, who never fails to transport us to exotic locales and eras with his globe-trotting inspirations. This time, he went aboard the Marrakesh express for his 2008 Dior Resort collection. The Parisian powerhouse is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and Galliano is blowing anniversary candles as he marked this year his 10th year as Dior fashion designer.

The style was haute boho, but cornflaky ragdolls they were not. Think globe-trotting heiress cum hippie. The appeal was played up with big bouffant hairdos and wide-brimmed hats. The models walked down wave-shaped runways in a space near the former Twin Towers.

The show was opened with the song, "Marrakesh Express," which was the tributary sonnet to the Moroccan hippie trail in the late 1960s. Acid trippy colors, animal prints, maxi coats, '50s- and '60s-inspired plastic sunglasses, flipped hair, beehive hairdos, glossy pouted lips and eyes precisely lined with black set

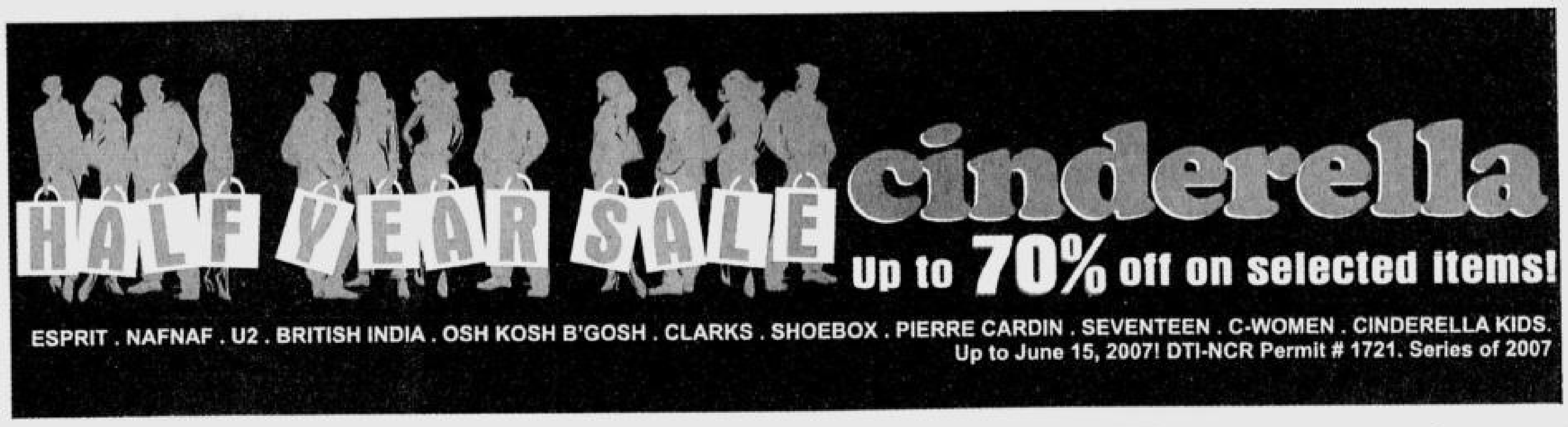
ON BOARD/ D3



SILK scarf on hats

COLORFUL and quirky sunglasses

EVENING gown paired with bejeweled headpiece



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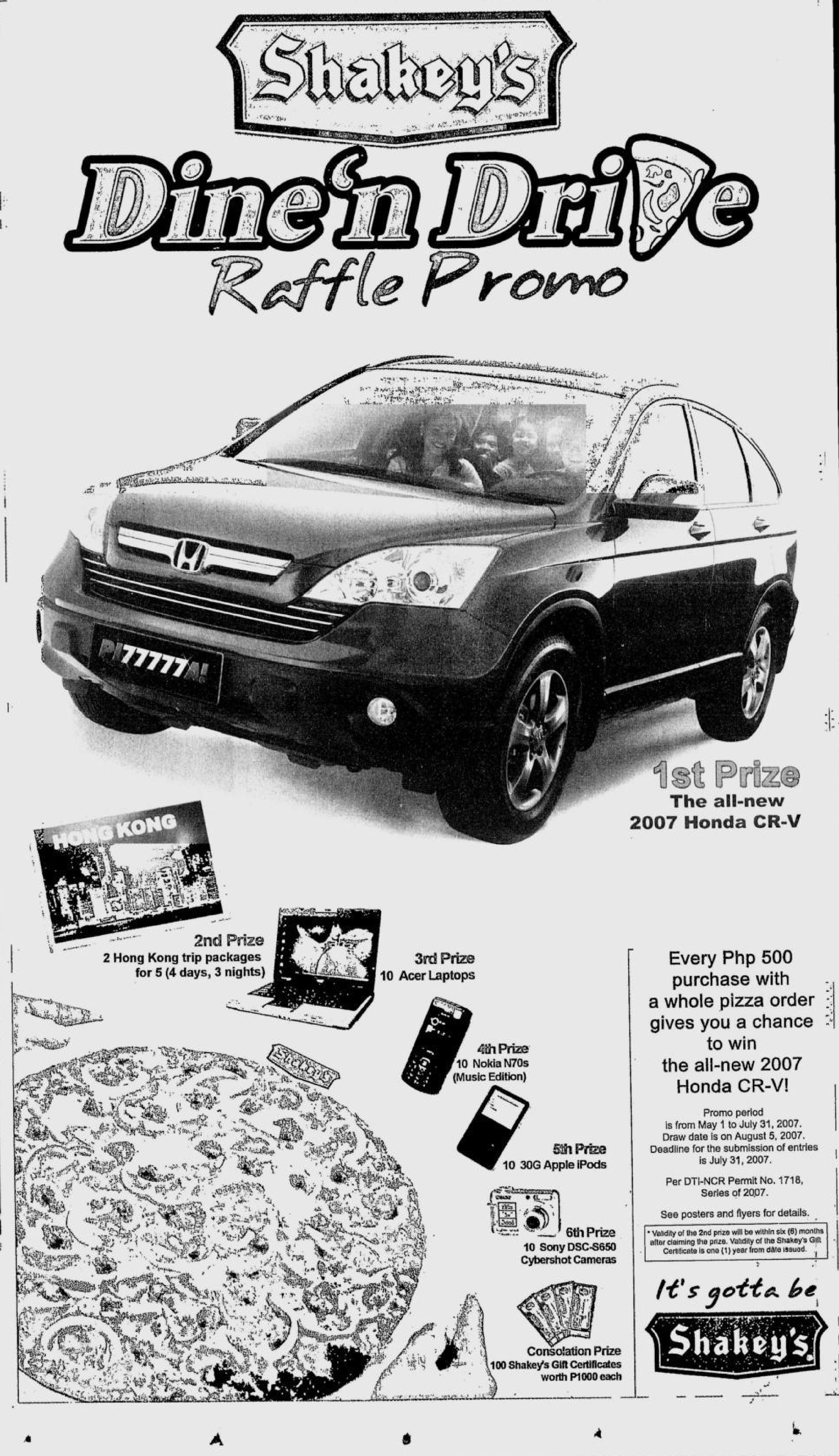

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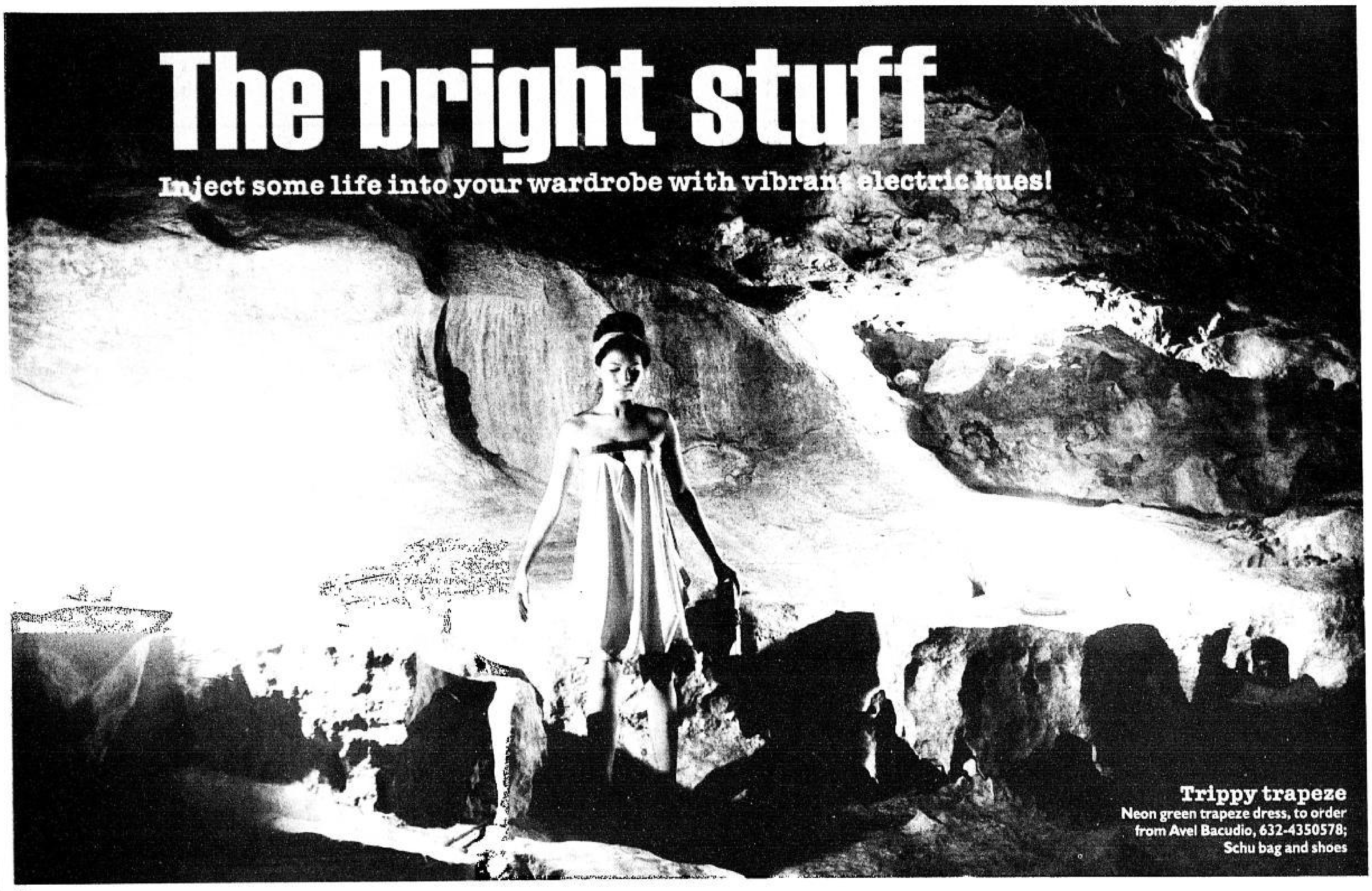
Deadline for the submission of entries
is July 31, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1718,
Series of 2007.
See posters and flyers for details.
* Validity of the 2nd prize will be within six (6) months after claiming the prize. Validity of the Shakey's Gift Certificate is one (1) year from date issued.
It's gotta be
Shakey's

The bright stuff

Inject some life into your wardrobe with vibrant electric hues!



Trippy trapeze
Neon green trapeze dress, to order from Avel Bacudio, 632-4350578; Schu bag and shoes

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

NEON COLORS ARE NOT just apt for the hot, halcyon days of summer. Fact is, they're also perfect bursts of color to liven up drab, grey, cloudy days, not to mention dull concrete city streets.

Although these electric colors are reminiscent of the '80s, worn right they can look up to the minute, too. No need to look like Milli Vanilli, Tiffany, the Go-Gos or even Aga Muhlach and JC Bonnin circa "Bagets" in their vibrant-colored jackets with roll-up sleeves—unless that's your cup of tea.

There are various ways to wear the colors of the radical rainbow to suit different styles.

Wallflowers, the weak of heart, or those who simply do not wish to relive their sartorial pasts can opt to choose just one neon color to match with neutrals like white, khaki or grey. An acid green tank top, for example, can brighten up a white shrug and trousers. Or a shock of cobalt blue in the form of shorts might be all that's needed to add punch to a grey tailored jacket.

Accessories are also a fail-safe way to inject some fluorescent hues into your look. A bright bag, belt, shoes or even bold bangles (not worn together, please!) can easily liven up any outfit. Picture a breezy white mini dress matched with acid yellow sandals or a heather grey knit dress cinched on the waist by a hot pink patent belt, and you'll get a pretty good idea of how to pick up the trend.

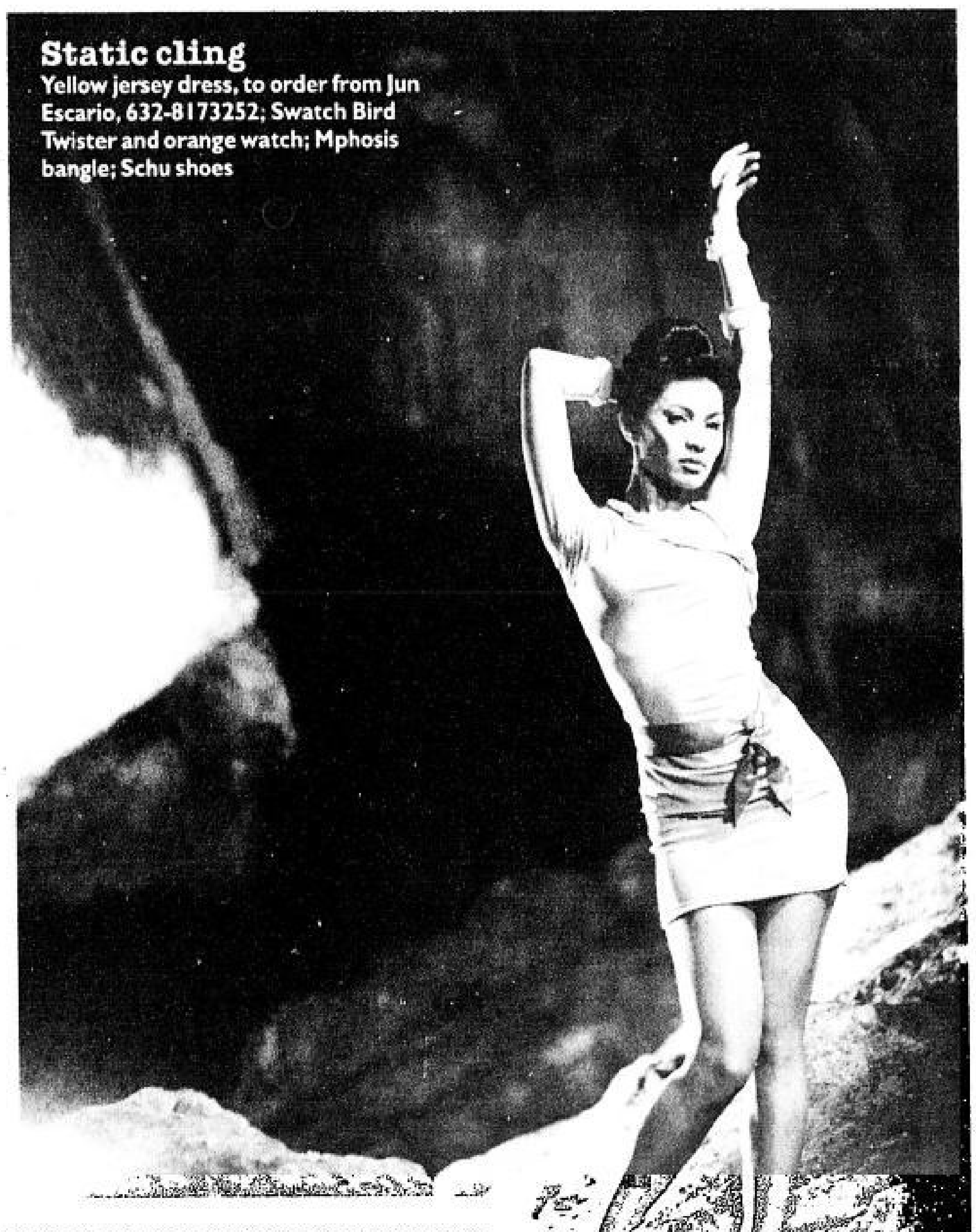
Those who are more adventurous, on the other hand, can go as electric as they want by combining different neon colors. A hot pink tank can be worn with a cobalt blue mini, for example. It may seem a bit much but, if it suits your style, you can get away with this potentially in-your-face look.

Another interesting, albeit daring way to wear these colors is by matching them with metallics or iridescent pieces. An off-shoulder disco-inspired gold knit top would look bold when matched with an electric blue pair of ultra-tight jeans.

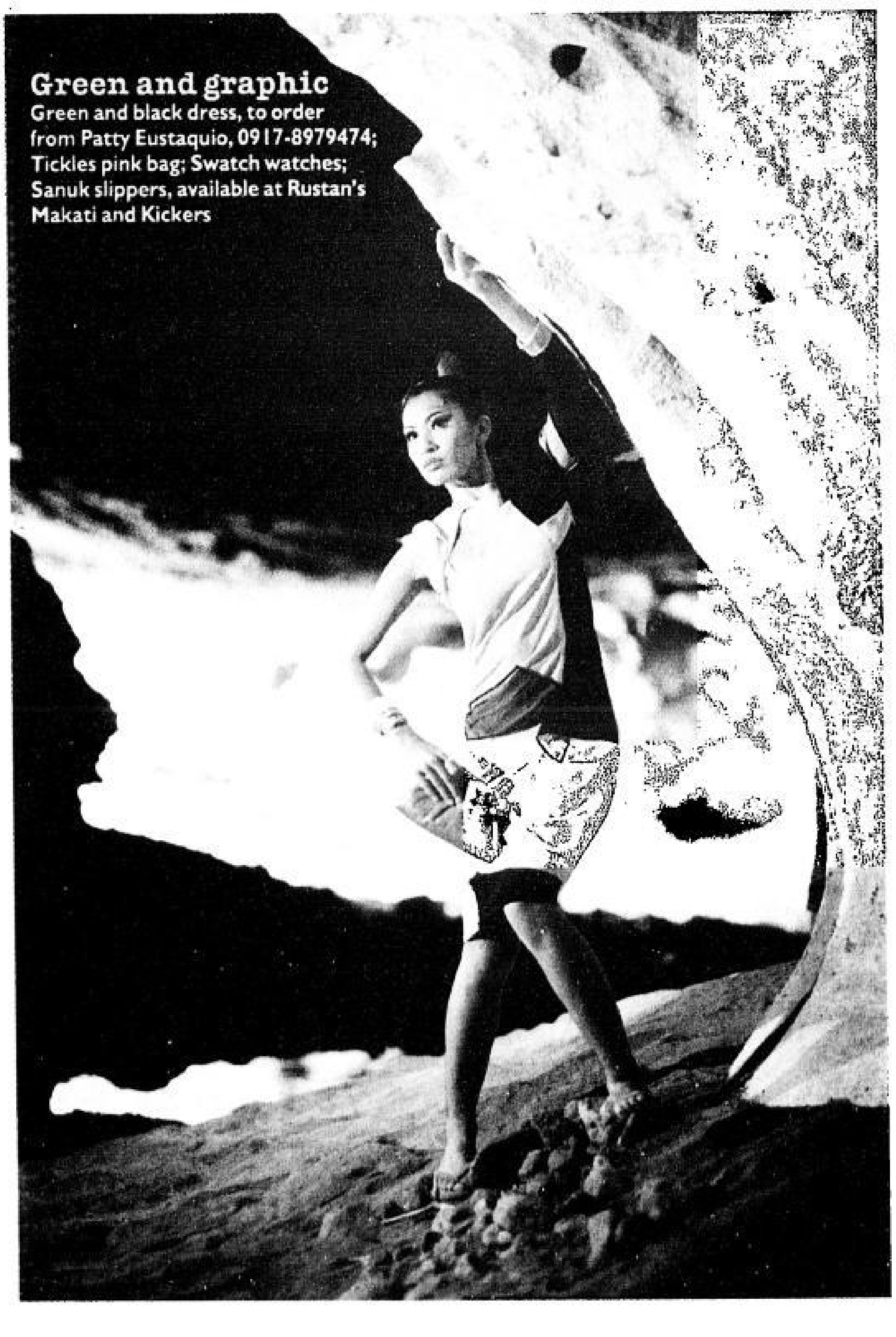
Whatever your personal style, inject some life into your wardrobe with vibrant electric hues. It's definitely time to let bright sparks rule!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Bahaghari
(www.lightstalkers.org/bahaghari)
Styling Millet V. Arzaga
Hair & Makeup Lourd Ramos,
assisted by Luisa Caballa/Emphasis Salon,
using Red Earth Cosmetics
Model Lia Andrea Ramos
(www.mercatormodels.com)



Static cling
Yellow jersey dress, to order from Jun Escario, 632-8173252; Swatch Bird Twister and orange watch; Mphosis bangle; Schu shoes

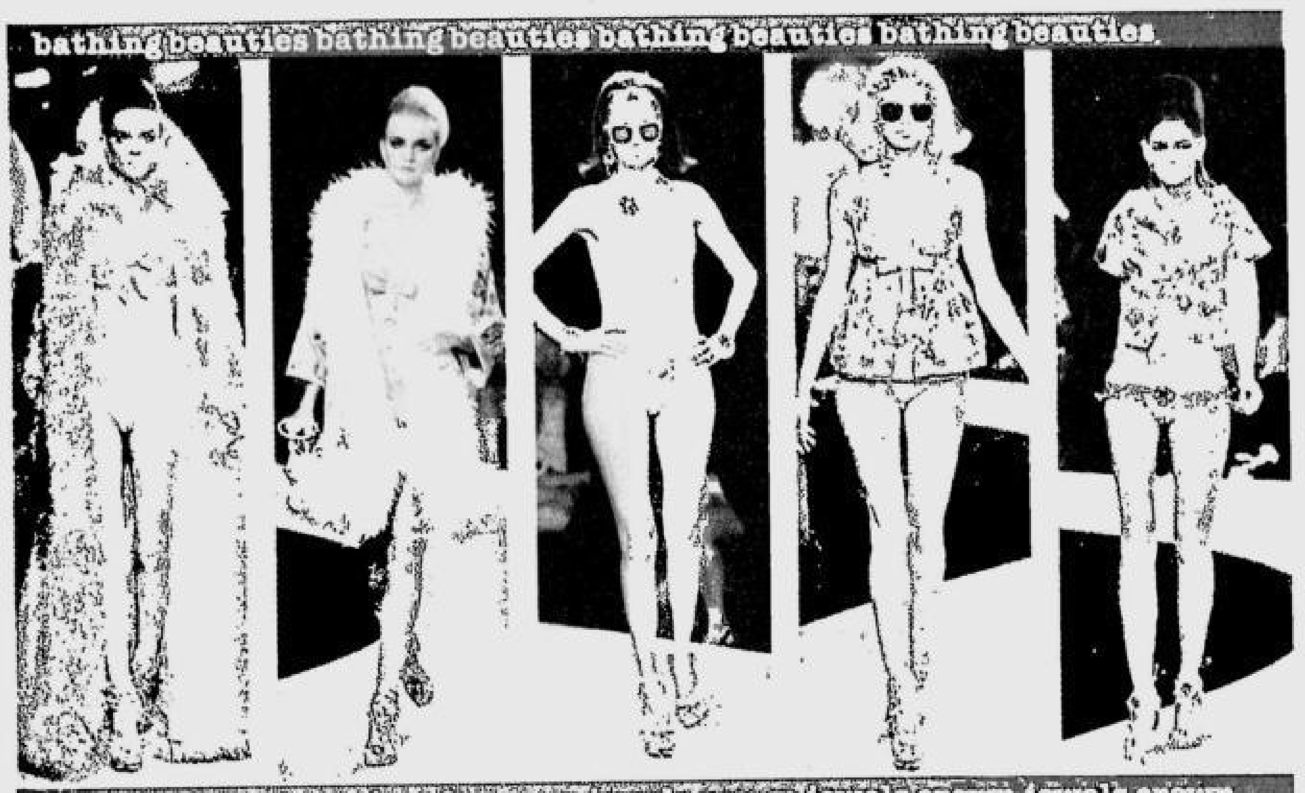


Green and graphic
Green and black dress, to order from Patty Eustaquio, 0917-8979474; Tickles pink bag; Swatch watches; Sanuk slippers, available at Rustan's Makati and Kickers

Shot on location
in Sagada
Special thanks
to Dino de Leon
of Columbia
Sportswear Co.
and Roel Chan
of The Travel Club

Sheer delight
Hot pink top [illegible] to order [illegible] Castelo, 0918-387162[illegible] red shirtdress; Swa[illegible] One Night in 54" watch

Bright-colored mini dress, to order from Jan Garcia, 0919-3373131; Chocolate Clothing yellow tank top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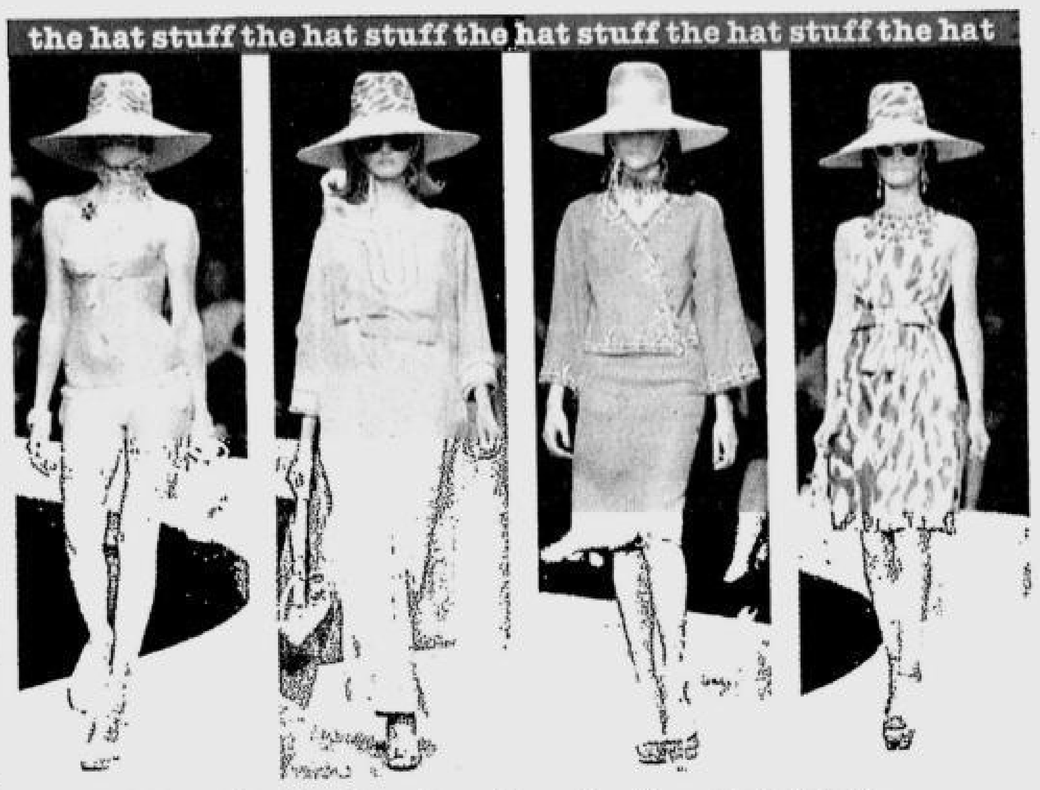
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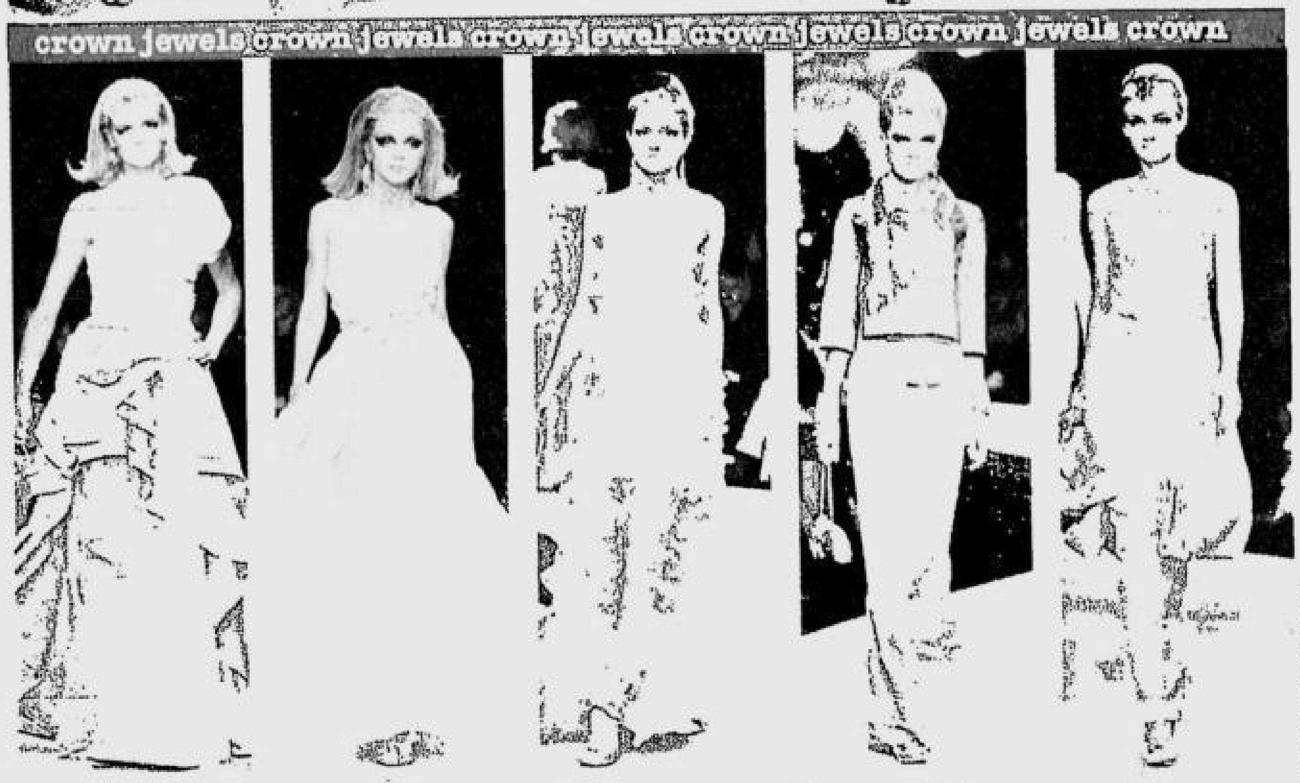

crown jewels crown jewels crown jewels crown jewels crown

PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

Exotic looks dominate the 2008 Dior Resort collection as Galliano marks his 10th year as house designer

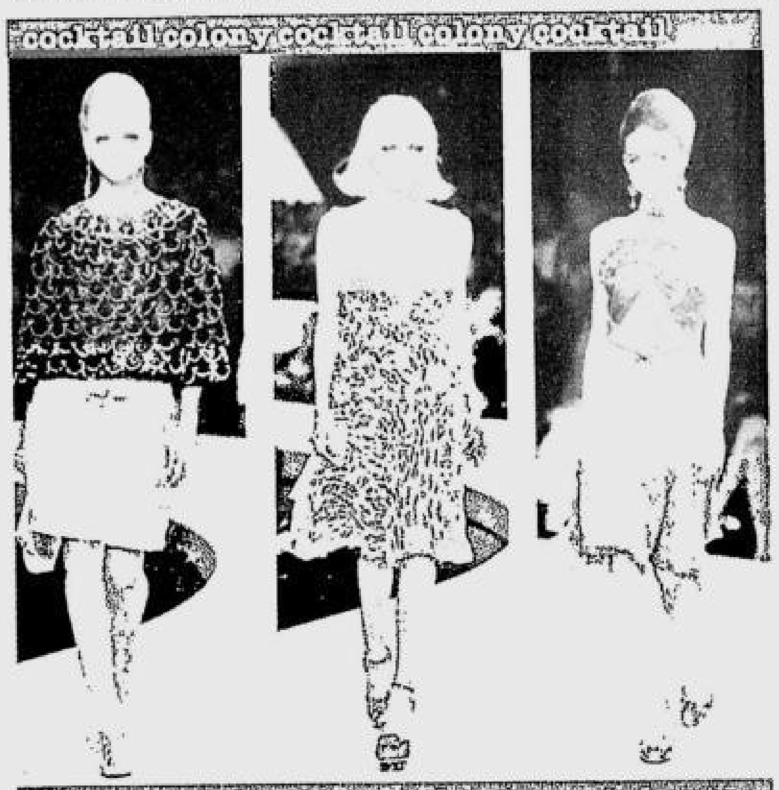
On board the Marrakesh express

From page D1

the pace of the collection that teleported us back to the '60s. The resulting vision was a phalanx of free-spirited, globe and time-traveling jetsetters.

Despite losing his right-hand man Steven Robinson, who passed away suddenly at 38 while working on the cruise collection, Galliano cruised along, head well above water with a more modern, progressive take with light, breezy fabrics. It's a refreshing detour from the once nebulous and vague silhouette. Vacation style has never been more first class.

JE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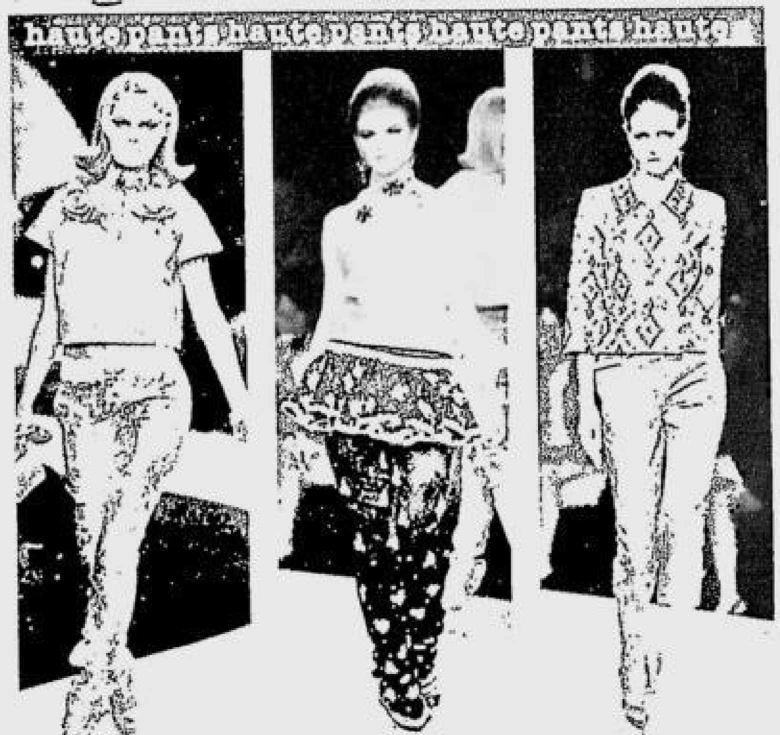
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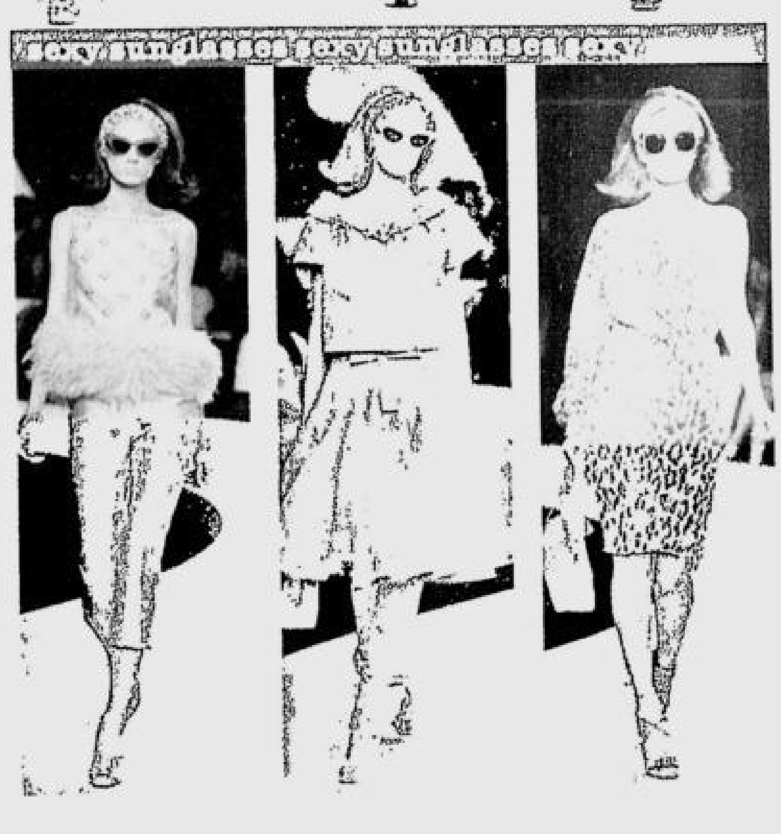
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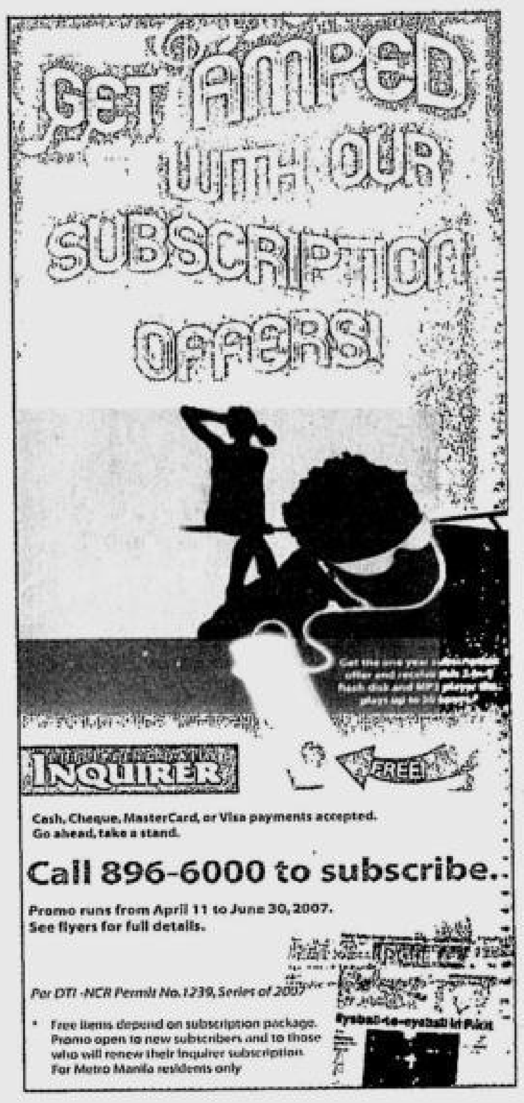
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Makeup for bridesmaids

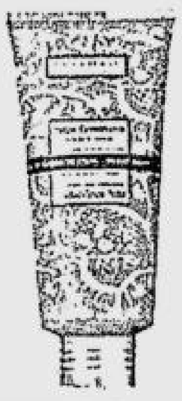
How to prepare for the big day? Choose good beauty products, for starters

MAKEOVER 911

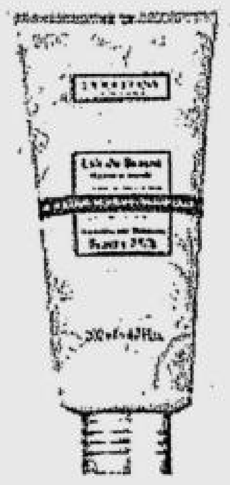
Kinny Salas

JENNIFER Love Hewitt—check out those lashes

GRAPE Anti-Water Retention Gel


CRUSHED Grape Polish

AVON Anew Clinical Lift and Tuck


GRAPE Beauty Milk

AS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND'S WEDDING draws even closer—this coming Monday to be exact—with me as the bridesmaid, I have come to realize that the pressure on the bridesmaid to look good on this day is almost as huge as the bride's.

Thank goodness I have some good products to fall back on, even if I don't always have the necessary discipline to follow the right regimen.

Here are some beauty items that are helping me relax and prepare for the big day.

It appears I will be at the peak of PMS on that day (read: ultra-bloated and cellulite studded). My gown will hide the cellulite, but the bulges will ruin the smooth sleek line of the gown that, just last week, fit me perfectly and flattered my body.

Water retention of as much as seven pounds will weigh down most women during PMS. So my solution is the L'Occitane Grape Anti Water Retention Gel (P1,750) and Beauty Milk (P1,250).

I also happen to be doing a grape detox program right now. I'm not eating anything except grapes and more grapes the whole day for five days straight until the night before her wedding. I stay away from caffeine, and the only thing I will drink aside from good old water is ginger brew for weight loss and cleansing.

Skin firmers

Clarins Total Body Lift helps too. It works on the stomach as well as the thighs, hips and butt by firming them up. The Clarins Anti Eau Oil is to prevent water retention, same with Avon Anew Lift and Tuck and Lancome's Sculpturale anti-cellulite gel.

MAT Velvet +

Stress, bad sleeping habits and pressure have given me sallow skin. But thanks to Belo's Chat 2%, acne is held at bay and my pores are practically invisible. At times, though, my skin still has a yellowish gray pallor which looks awful in photos.

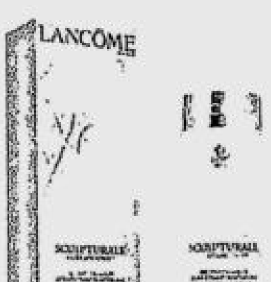
For makeup, look for a mauve tinted pre-foundation primer like Make Up Forever's Corrective Make-up Base SPF 18 in #2, or Awake's Invention color makeup base SPF 15 in Stella Blue, both of which correct yellow tones and give one luminous, natural-looking skin.

You have to have a light/medium skin tone for these hues, as *morena* complexions would just come off looking grayish. If you have darker skin but want a natural fairer glow, opt for a pale yellow or green color corrector. Check out The Face Shop or Elianto for more reasonably priced color corrector alternatives.

Powders that make the face glow include Guerlain Meteorites in Pearl and Lavender 05 pressed powder, as well as The Face Shop's Lavender loose and pressed powders. For the neck down, try Pond's Blue powder and Johnson's Blue beauty powder. Do not forget to powder the body parts that are exposed, or they will absorb light and appear darker than the face in photos.

Foundations

Foundation with firming action for ladies in their 30s and up—there are two I can recommend: Makeup Forever Liquid Lift Foundation (P1,800) and Revlon Age Defying Foundation with Botafirm SPF 12.


SCULPTURALE

For oily and acne-prone skin, the ideal foundation would be Make-up Forever Mat Velvet SPF 20 Foundation (P1,900), YSL Perfect Touch Radiant Brush Foundation and Shu Uemura UV Liquid SPF 25, which keeps skin shine-free a long time.

Eyelash extensions are my greatest love for now, as they really open up Oriental eyes and they save me some precious 10-15 minutes in formal eye makeup application. Some examples of perfect eyelash extensions are Jennifer Love Hewitt's in "Ghost Whisperer" and Lindsay Lohan's in, well, just about any photo.

My favorite places to go for eyelash extensions would be Razzle Dazzle Salon (tel. 8402880, look for Melinda), Philosophy salon (8921574) and Mikaela for eyelash weave (which lasts longer and can go thicker, for a more dramatic Arabian princess look).

Those who already have thick long lashes can just have them permed, which is a lot cheaper. I heard Grace Lagman does eyelash extensions for P400 only. I have not tried her, but I know her shop is at Reposo Street in Makati.

Makeup Forever, Guerlain and YSL are available at Marionnaud, SM Mall of Asia. Avon Hotline is 8642900.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas @yahoo.com

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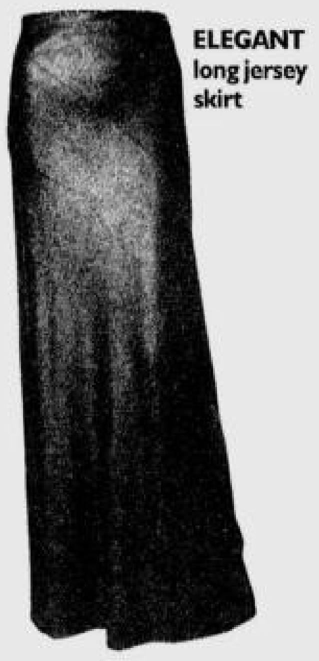
SUPERMODEL Kate Moss ventures into design as she partners with British retailer Topshop. She wears her own designs.

METALLIC vest



ELEGANT long jersey skirt

Edgy, playful, fab

KATE MOSS AND TOPSHOP have collaborated on an eclectic capsule collection of cool, signature pieces.

The supermodel says, "I've always been a huge fan of Topshop and regularly shop there. I love what they stand for and very excited to be working with them. I am confident that they'd be able to interpret my ideas and designs in the right way. They've given me complete creative freedom throughout the process."

Established in 1964 and a part of Arcadia Group Ltd., Topshop is owned by Sir Philip Green. Taking a personal role in negotiations with Moss, Green says, "Kate has a unique position as a true fashion icon and I look forward to helping develop 'Kate for Topshop' into a global brand. Kate's appeal is global and creates a fashion statement wherever she is seen."

Indeed, inspired by Moss' wardrobe, the range encapsulates the supermodel's personal sense of style and showcases key looks for the season ahead.

The collection mirrors an edgy but playful attitude. A lean, typically rock silhouette sits next to vintage-inspired, floral-print tea dresses and bohemian-inspired pieces.

Slinky lurex jersey and skinny washed denim are staples. The Chrissie drainpipes in red, indigo or black and cropped mid-blue jeans are timeless. Fine love-worn metallic vests are low-cut and sit under shrunken masculine blazers and waistcoats. Luxurious, butter-soft leather jackets are cut to follow the contours of the body, but have relaxed, unfinished edges and ties. Androgynous, tailored pinstripe trouser suits and cotton twill mustard and black striped skinny trouser-suit offer a rebellious edge.

Dark, exquisite prints decorate dresses and perfect jersey basics. A delicate cream T-shirt wears a heavy, thorny illustration, with a "K" intertwined among the flourishes. Birds of paradise, flowers and thorns are woven among heavy chains, while a discrete monogram sits among the patterns.

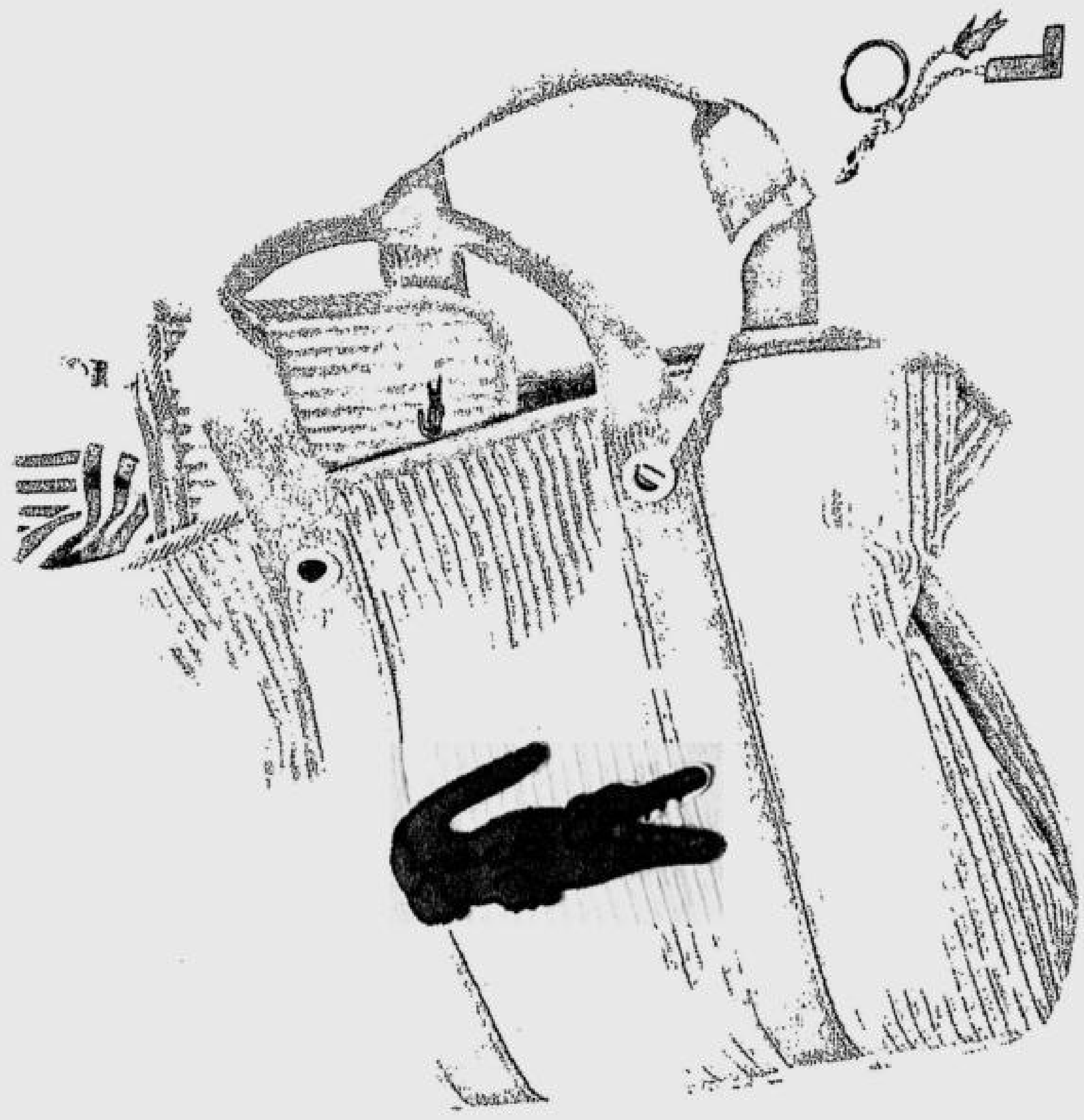
Hemlines are either sky-high or floor-sweeping. Denim hotpants and drummer-boy shorts sit alongside floor-length bias-cut skirts and dresses. Chain mail and shimmering mini-dresses with racer backs are a great contrast to ink waist-coat dresses and a bronze maxi skirt.

The accessories that adorn this collection are quintessentially Kate. One-of-a-kind pieces like a riveted patent clutch, suede studded belts, laced gladiator sandals and the eponymous knee-high suede "Kate" boots are key. Reflecting Kate's tattoos, swallows are embroidered on waistbands while heart shapes appear on denim hems, lending a personal touch.

EDGY/ E3

SKINNY red pants

LACOSTE



un peu d'air sur terre

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BIGFISH
folded&
folded

F&H PRESIDENT Ronald Pineda, F&H eye-catching endorser Maja Salvador, M Baretto and F&H head designer Robi Lolin

JOHN Tanchua, Gerry Katigbak, Richard Papa and Ramon Esteban

MYLENE Dizon

ALLAN Ramos and Arnel Papa

PRETTY Pixie Olivarez and Ian Adelina

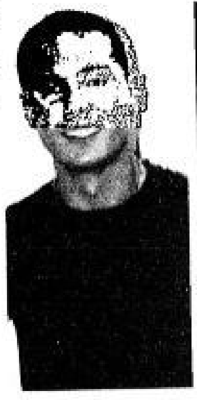
SM'S top male designer Tonichi Nocum

Street fashion given a new twist

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

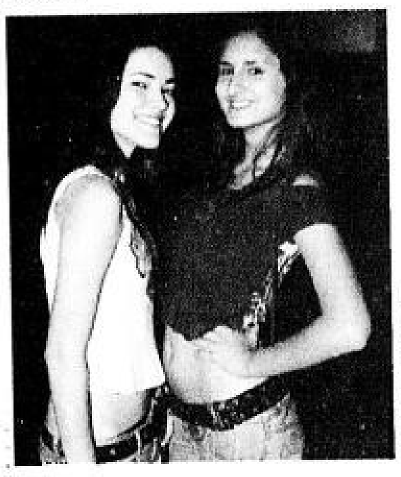
Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

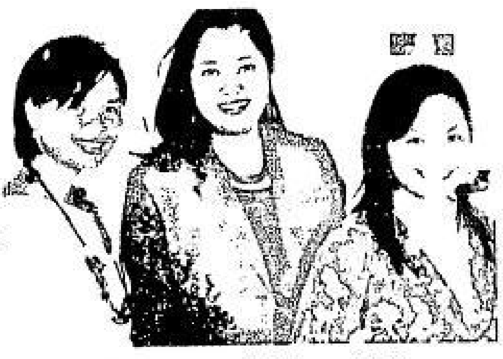


F&H endorser, handsome Polo Ravales

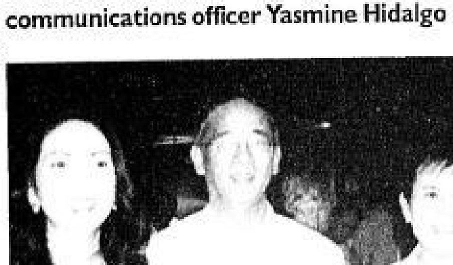
ORLY Carrasco and gorgeous Vicky Morales



HEY, beautiful. Lucia Dias and Danielly Barbosa



SOFITEL'S movers and shakers. Melissa Hidalgo; Sofitel Philippine Plaza PR manager Melanie Pallorina; and trilingual PR and communications officer Yasmine Hidalgo



WOMAN of substance and style Anna Sobrepeña, BPI president Aurelio "Gigi" Montinola III and Ayala Museum director Angela Lacson

HIP, ALL-TIME FAVORITE FOLDED & Hung recently held its fun F&H Streetcast Fashion show at the World Trade Center, *palanggas*. The first thing *moi* noticed as I walked to the center was a long, long white ramp that looked like a pedestrian lane, illuminated by bouncing lights, where over 100 models in F&H ensembles strutted their stuff, *natch*!

For the new collection, head designer **Robi Lolin** said: "My inspiration came from beautiful people with different looks and types on the streets."

Streetcast wasn't a humdrum display of urban clothes, *palanggas*. Each model put on a show. Between the different ensembles were quick performances by fantastic break-dancers and skateboarders.

Statuesque model and VJ **Joey Mead** jazzed up the runway in her F&H outfit as she danced to a swinging beat.

The highlight of this happening, dahlings, was the unveiling of young stars **Maja Salvador** and **Polo Ravales** as the new endorsers of Folded & Hung. In F&H clothes, *palanggas*, the two models made the streets look fashionable and hip, *naturellement*.

'Essences Insensées'

We were engrossed by the exhibit "Essences Insensées" which tackled the theme of art and fragrance at the Ayala Museum.

The exhibit consisted of photographs of fragrances and their sculptured bottles rendered by international artists.

Twelve international artists were invited to create a perfume in collaboration with Fragrance House Quest International. They then created sculptured bottles for the perfumes, which were produced by *tres* prestigious manufacturers such as Lalique, Baccarat, Faenza and the Bernardaud Porcelain Foundation, no less.

"Every year since its creation in April 2000, the Parcours Saint-Germain, directed by **Anne-Pierre d'Albis-Ganem**, invites artists to channel their creativity into the public places of the area of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, its streets, its squares, its cafés," explained the French Embassy's press attaché, **Carolle Lucas**.

Moi was present to capture the "olfactory exhibit," which was held by the French Embassy ostensibly to drumbeat interest in the European production of the film version of the hit novel by **Patrick Süskind**, "The Perfume."

BEAUTIFUL constant twosome and partners, Ricky Daker of Active8 Records and Bigfish Empress, vivacious Pixie Cheah

Popular hot designers such as **Rajo Laurel**, **Patis Tesoro**, **Vic Barba**, **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**, **Arcy Gayatin**, **Joji Lloren**, **Dennis Lustico**, **Tonichi Nocom**, **Frederick Peralta** and **Puey Quinones** brought alive this exceptional exhibit.

The exhibit was sponsored and organized by the Alliance Française de Manille, French Embassy, Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Air France-KLM, BPI, Rustan's, Quest International, and Parcours Saint-Germain and Cultures France. Thanks to them, *moi* was on "essences insensées" mode for a week, dahlings.

Hed Kandi party

It was one of those nights that had two or three happenings at the same time. One event had *moi* rubbing elbows with over 2,000 extraordinarily fashionable partyphiles who congregated at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard to dance, dance and dance till they dropped. It was the night when Team Bigfish, with the full support of Smart Gold, presented "Hed Kandi: The Back To Love Party," dahlings.

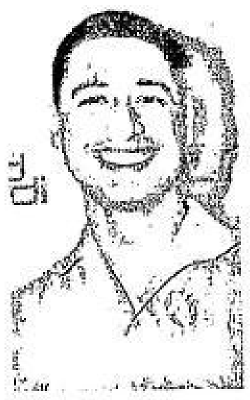
Hed Kandi is the world-renowned record label specializing in party music. The fabulous Team Bigfish teamed up with it to enliven the local dance party scene.

Hed Kandi played one timeless tune after another. Its sleek club classics had the party mob on their feet, furiously dancing until way past dawn, *palanggas*.

As always, fab DJ **Benjo Marquez** did a fantastic job of warming up the crowd for the main set by Hed Kandi master DJ **Andy Norman**.

PEYTON

DAVID Nugent



ILLAC Diaz

PROV hotshot CEO Ajit Nair, who jetted into town for the launching of their headquarters, with Deepak Taneja and Jai Samtani

SARAV Chand, Louie Cruz, David Swales and Mallie Apale

PROV International country manager Robert Berry

Wow, dahlings, you just can't imagine how Andy raised up the dance fever level by about three awesome notches the second he took over the DJ's deck.

The fever was raised even higher when super vocalist **Peyton** rendered classic club hits and more recent releases.

Sashaying to the beat were our town's dazzling clubbers and partyphiles, no less, such as workasonic **Ricky Daker** of Activ8 Records, and, *naturellement*, Bigfish empress **Pixie Cheah**, who was absolutely thrilled with the huge success of the happening.

Moi had to take 48 vitamins the next morning, *palanggas*, to recuperate from the wild night of dancing. But *moi* wouldn't dare miss their next one. Hey, that's what partying the Team Bigfish way is all about, dahlings.

Cocktail for IT bigshot

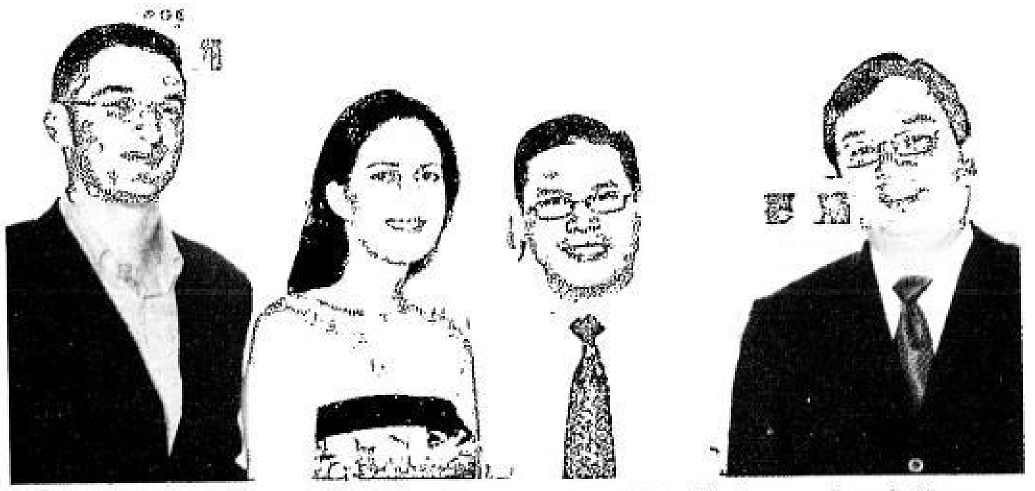
Moi got invited to the cocktail in honor of ProV International co-founder, chair of the board and CEO, the *tres charmant* **Ajit Nair**.

Nair jetted in to formally launch ProV's *Manille* headquarters at Rockwell Tent.

Moi asked: "What is ProV all about ?" And Fran[illegible] [illegible]ibano, ProV top PR manager, explained: "Being one of the youngest global IT providers, ProV International provides affordable, strategic and innovative solutions in areas such as staff augmentation; and on- and offshore outsourcing and infrastructure management. It also works across industries like healthcare, manufacturing, utilities, education, information technology, telecommunications, banking and finance, insurance, wholesale, retail and distribution."

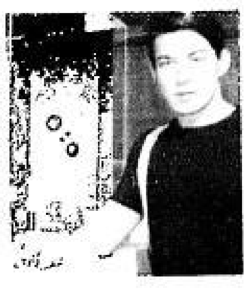
No wonder, ProV was honored as Florida's 2005 High Growth IT Company of the Year.

Rubbing business elbows at the reception were ProV International Philippines country general manager **Robert Berry Jr.**; **Ramon Sales**, chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology; Metrobank's **Alfred Ty**; **Ernie Franklin** of Blue Cross Blue Shield; **Philip Nazareno**; **Bullet Paredes-Todino**; **Mark Nuguid**; **Honey Padilla**; **Paula Schindeler** of the Netherlands Embassy; **Ria Yujico**; **Ria Kalaw**; and **Mon Ibrahim**, dahlings.



ALLIANÇE Francaise de Manille director, *tres charmant* Olivier Dintinger; cultural officer attractive Marie-Julie Weckerie; Air France and KLM's top asset, regional marketing manager Bingo Braganza; and brilliant country manager Jose Luarente Jr.

ODORE di Femmina perfume, design by Rajo Laurel



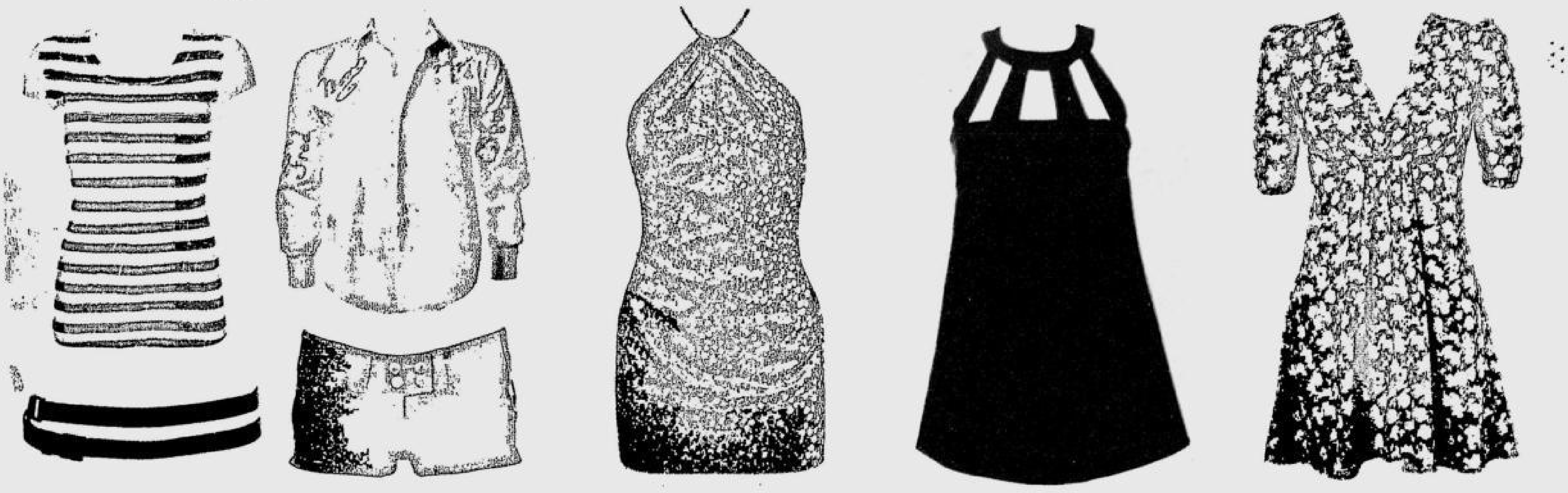
PARFUM Eightball, design by Anthony Nocom

ALLIANÇE Francaise de Manille board member, statuesque eye-catcher Severine Miailhe

OLIVIA Romulo, National Artist Juvenal Sansó and columnist Beth Day Romulo

POPULAR painters Allan and Ivi Cosio with a model wearing a Dennis Lustico creation inspired by Perfume of Tears

FRENCH press attaché Carolle Lucas; Supply Oilfield Services chair and CEO Louis-Paul Heussaff; French first counselor Bernard Regnauld-Fabre; French police attaché Jean-Pierre Gauthier; Dutch second secretary Paula Schindeler; and French counselor for economic and commercial affairs Dominique Lebastard



Edgy, playful, fab

FROM left: Striped cream shirt, belt, embroidered white shirt, red shorts, red dress in playful spotted cotton, effortlessly cool dress, exquisite floral-print dress, all by Kate for Topshop

From page E1

Topshop and Kate Moss are, indeed, the perfect fit. Launched in London last May 1, The Kate Moss Topshop collection will also be sold in 45 international franchise stores, including here in the Philippines.

The limited Kate Moss Topshop collection will be available in the Philippines beginning June 1 at the following select Topshop branches: Robinson's Galleria, 2/F; Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, G/F; and SM Mall of Asia, 2/F. Visit www.katemosstopshop.com.

Off to NY on Kate Moss' wings

BRITISH FAST FASHION RETAILER Topshop plans to launch three stores in Manhattan following the success of supermodel Kate Moss' collection for the chain, its owner Philip Green said on Monday.

Green told Reuters sales of the first clothes range by Moss were "very good" in the week since it went on sale in the United States at upmarket department store Barney's.

It was now a natural progression to launch Topshop stores with a full range of its inexpensive, fashionable clothes.

"We are looking for sites this week but, realistically, nine months is the time horizon to get a store sorted and opened," Green said in a telephone interview.

Green, one of Britain's most successful retailers, added he was also scouting for real estate in Paris with the aim of opening a Topshop flagship store there in the next few months.

However, he denied reports of a Topshop listing on the back of any US launch. Bankers estimate the fashion chain is worth around 2 billion pounds ($3.96 billion).

Moss, who cut a 3-million pound deal with Topshop, is the latest celebrity hired by a retailer to help win an increasingly competitive battle for fashion-savvy mid-market shoppers.

Madonna is now starring at H&M and will soon be followed at the Swedish chain by Kylie Minogue, while up-and-coming singer Lily Allen has struck a deal with Britain's New Look.

Set-up costs for the US stores will be in the region of $100 million and Green said he was aiming for total space in Manhattan of 150,000 sq ft across the three stores but wouldn't be limited by that.

"We will do something bigger if it's something fabulous," he said.

Bold move

Topshop's launch in the United States is a bold move with rivals like Marks & Spencer having failed to break into the world's most competitive retail market in the past. Green did not rule out New York being the start of a bigger expansion.

"Let's get the New York stores open first and then we will see from there. It's a big country," he said.

While H&M saw its March sales surge 17 percent thanks to Madonna, Moss, whose every fashion move is followed by the British press, was expected to be a bigger hit because of her history of inspiring millions of women's wardrobe choices.

The look she pulls together for herself—skinny jeans and waistcoats, floral mini dresses and sawn-off denim shorts—continues to drive global fashion trends.

Green declined to give early sales figures for Moss' collection after its launch in 20 countries in the past two weeks following blanket coverage in the British press since it was announced last September.

However, he said more stock was being shipped to Barney's as it had nearly sold out Moss' 50-piece collection in 19 stores nationwide. The range stretches from 12 pounds for a tight-fitting vest to a leather jacket for 150 pounds.

"We are currently hoping to ship more merchandise to the States next week. Barney's is looking for more merchandise—they are chasing for more products," Green said. *Reuters*

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Join our trivia challenge to win cool giveaways, Chinese calligraphy and henna tattoos!

MEET the women of Marks & Spencer: Lizzie Jagger, Myleene Klass, Laura Bailey, Twiggy, and Erin O'Connor.

Inter-generational chic

TWIGGY exudes style through the ages. Here she is wearing a linen tie cardigan (P3,250) over a cream camisole (P695) and striped linen trousers (P4,250).

TO CAPTURE THE WIDE SELECTION and varied styles of Marks & Spencer's women's wear, five women of diverse styles have been tapped to represent it. They are Twiggy, Erin O'Connor, Laura Bailey, Lizzie Jagger and Myleene Klass.

Twiggy has been a measure of style since becoming a fashion icon and the world's first supermodel in the 1960's. Now, she represents style for women in their 50s.

O'Connor and Bailey represent the different styles of women in their mid-20s up to their 40s. Both women are British supermodels but have individual styles.

Jagger, 22, represents the younger generations, embodying rock 'n' roll fashion, thanks to her dad, Mick Jagger, as well as sexy, feminine fashion, thanks to her mom, the former model Jerry Hall.

Klass was born to an English father and a Filipino mother. A British classical pianist, commercial model, television and radio presenter, the former member of the UK pop group Hear Say became popular after a three-week stint in the Australian outback in the hit British reality TV show, "I'm a Celebrity, Get me Out of Here!"

In the new Marks & Spencer Spring/Summer TV ad, which was shot in Cape Town, South Africa, the girls are shown having a fun outdoor picnic wearing key looks and must-have outfits for summer.

The styles range from relaxed and chic to sleek and sophisticated.

Of the experience shooting the TV ad, Klass said: "At first I was a little bit nervous—who wouldn't be, standing next to Twiggy and Erin? But once I put on those clothes... then I started to feel like a real Marks & Spencer girl. Every woman [in the UK] sees the Marks & Spencer ads and wants to be a part of it. It's the ultimate girl gang."

When asked what she brings to the mix, Klass said: "I remember sitting at the shoot thinking, 'I'm not six foot tall and I'm not a certain size,' but none of us are. If you'd have put us all in a line, there are no two girls that are the same... this is literally a cross-section of women."

Diversity in fact is the message of the collection. Whether one is in her 20s or 50s, Marks & Spencer has the latest fashion as well as classic wardrobe staples.

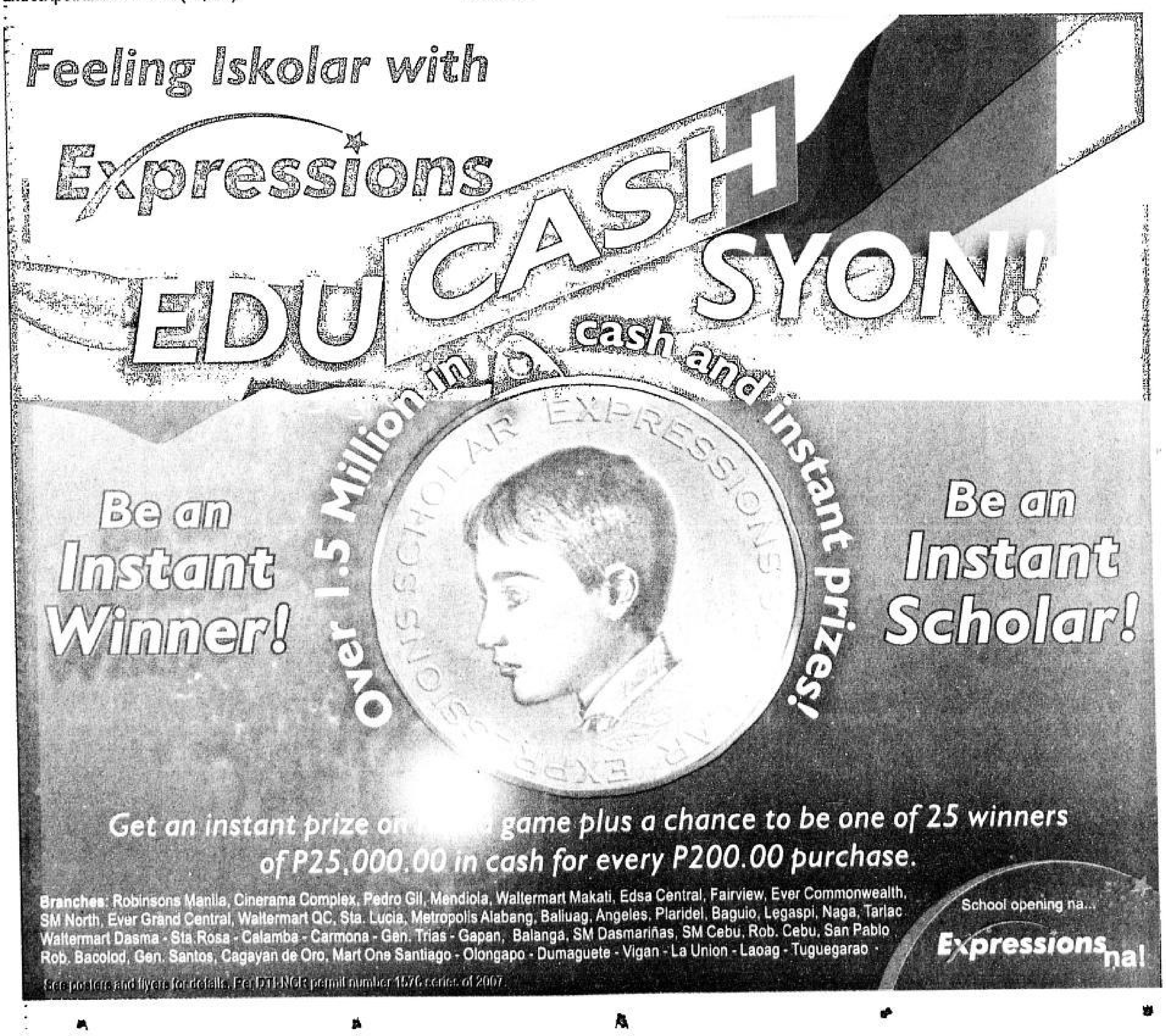
Marks & Spencer has everyone covered.

Marks & Spencer is at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Mall, SM Megamall, SM Pampanga, SM Mall of Asia, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila and Ayala Center Cebu.

LIZZIE Jagger brings her wild rock 'n' roll style and soft feminine side to the group. Here she wears a print dress from Marks & Spencer (P5,250).

LAURA Bailey is wearing a daisy jacquard jacket (P8,550).

ERIN O'Connor is wearing a shimmer jacket (P4,550) and semi plain double belt trousers (P2,150).



Get an instant prize on [illegible] game plus a chance to be one of 25 winners of P25,000.00 in cash for every P200.00 purchase.

Branches: Robinsons Manila, Cinerama Complex, Pedro Gil, Mendiola, Waltermart Makati, Edsa Central, Fairview, Ever Commonwealth, SM North, Ever Grand Central, Waltermart QC, Sta. Lucia, Metropolis Alabang, Baliuag, Angeles, Plaridel, Baguio, Legaspi, Naga, Tarlac Waltermart Dasma - Sta.Rosa - Calamba - Carmona - Gen. Trias - Gapan, Balanga, SM Dasmariñas, SM Cebu, Rob. Cebu, San Pablo Rob. Bacolod, Gen. Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Mart One Santiago - Olongapo - Dumaguete - Vigan - La Union - Laoag - Tuguegarao -

See posters and flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR permit number 1576 series of 2007.

School opening na...
Expressions na!

GOINGS ON

Shoes and bags fair ongoing until June 30

STA. LUCIA EAST DEPARTMENT STORE holds the shoes and bags fair in time for the opening of classes. The annual fair is ongoing until June 30. Free water tumbler is also given to shoppers with a minimum P1,000 single purchase receipt of any back-to-school items. The fair is sponsored by Urban Travel, Robby Rabbit, Fashion Colony, Europak, British Knight, Dickies Bags, Racini, Crisan, Barbie, Mario D' Boro, Burlington, Darlington, NBA Socks, Palomino, Hardytogs, GBX, Fisher Price, Mysteè Shoes, Jazz and Chancellor.

BANGSAMORO EXHIBIT. Mall goers at the Podium can view photographs of Muslim royalty taken at the turn of the century in the People of the Inundated Plain exhibit, which will be held May 23-27 at the mall's Lounge Area. A joint project of the Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc., which was designated as the private sector arm, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and The Podium, the exhibit showcases a collection of old photographs depicting the personalities and lifestyles of our Bangsamoro brothers in the Maguindanao region. It is in line with the celebration of the Heritage Month. Photographs from the exhibit come from the collection of William Eastman, the founder of Kodak. This is the first time that these photographs will be shown to the public.

PHOTO SEMINAR. The Federation of the Philippine Photographers Foundation holds a wedding photography seminar on May 28. Lecturer is Vic Sison, educator, photojournalist, artist and master wedding photographer. The seminar is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call 5247576/ 6280371/ 5255792 or visit its office at Rm. 302-A, Femii Bldg., A. Soriano Ave., Intramuros, Manila.

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION. YKK Details launches a design competition which features ready-to-wear clothing lines. The top 10 chosen finalists were mentored by famous fashion designer Rajo Laurel. One of the highlights of the launch is a fashion show which will be held on May 26 at the Music Hall, SM Mall of Asia. Watch out for the complete coverage in QTV 11's MTK whole month on June series, 8-9 p.m. This event is sponsored by QTV 11 MTK, Inquirer.net, INQUIRER Libre and House of Laurel. Visit www.ykkadpr.com.ph for details.

SEMINAR. On May 28, 7:30 p.m. leading Kabbalah instructor David Ghiyam will be in Manila to give a lecture on "7th heaven," featuring topics on sex. The seminar will be held at the AIM Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra St. Legaspi Village, Makati City at 7:30 p.m. Seminar fee is P1,000. Call 0922-7681040, e-mail Philippines@kabbalah.com or visit www.kabbalah.com/philippines.

WRITING WORKSHOP. Adarna House and the Filipinas Heritage Library are now accepting entries for the "6th Barlaya Writing for Young Adults Workshop." All submissions must target readers ages 12-18 years. Entries must be sent not later than 5 p.m. on July 2. Adarna House is on the 2/F, FSS Building, 20 Scout Tuazon corner Scout Castor Sts., Quezon City. The workshop is set on Sept. 6-7. Call 3723548 local 110 or e-mail events@adarna.com.ph.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE. Adarna House Showroom holds a back-to-school sale until June. More than 50-percent discounts on selected books are given to buyers. The Adarna House Showroom is open from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays. Adarna House is on the 2/F of FSS Building, 20 Scout Tuason corner Scout Castor Sts., QC. Call 3723548.

PBBY WORKSHOP. All parents, and preschool and elementary teachers are invited to attend the "PBBY's Storytelling Workshop," on June 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the National Book Store, Cubao. The program features Finger Stories, Storytelling tricks, Story Theater and Storytelling and Art. For registration and inquiries, call 3723548 local 110 or e-mail events@adarna.com.ph.

CORPORATE FIXED LOAD PLAN. Sun Cellular is offering companies a postpaid service to reduce work-related expenditures. The Fixed Load Plan gives automatic load credits to employees every month. Sun also throws in free new handsets. Employees can choose from five handsets. Sun's fixed Load Plan increases talk time through its revolutionary 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service. Call 3958000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph.

HIGH-SCHOOL REUNION. Class '82 of Colegio del Buen Consejo High School will hold its silver jubilee and grand class reunion July 28, 3 p.m., at the Tektite Tower Function Hall, Ortigas. Call 0927-9178288 or join yahoo.com/groups/CBC_HS_1982Batch.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is offering four-day basic and advanced photography courses every Sunday starting June 3. Classes will be held at Rm. 302-A, Femii Bldg., A. Soriano Ave., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5247576, 5280371 or 5255792.

Clinic for kids to develop love for reading

By Marlet D. Salazar

WHEN JUARIZA APARIS' 6-YEAR-OLD CHILD WAS having a hard time catching up with her lessons, she immediately recognized that there was a problem. She consulted doctors and sought the opinion of professionals. But even if they were able to identify that the child had dyslexia, nobody offered any solution.

This is one of the main reasons Aparis, together with her other partners, set up Bookgrove Reading Clinic on E. Rodriguez Avenue, Barangay Ugong, Pasig, in July 2005.

"I wanted to extend help to children who have learning difficulty," Aparis said, "and spare their parents from the guessing game of what they can do to help their kids."

After further inquiries and tirelessly looking for a school that would suit the level of her child's learning pace, Aparis finally found one. The size of the class was relatively smaller compared to the traditional school. The idea was that the fewer the students were, the more personalized the teaching would be.

Aparis learned that the school gave a reading workshop lasting for 10 days or 30 hours. She listed

CLINIC/ F2

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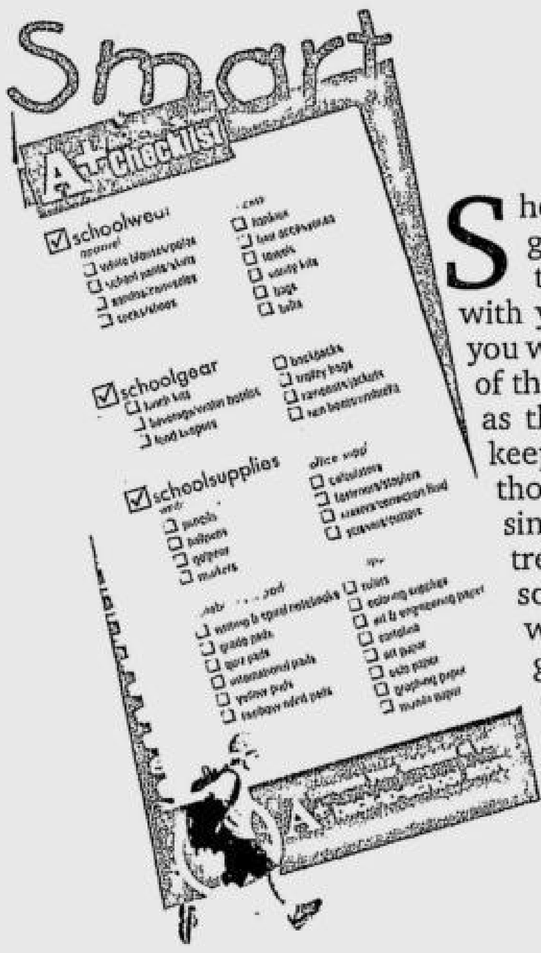
Smart for the new school year


A+ Checklist
schoolwear
schoolgear
schoolsupplies

Shopping for your children's school gear has always been a herculean task. Aside from having to contend with your available budget (most often you will be overwhelmed by the number of things you need to buy for your kids as these are all necessities), you also keep in mind that you provide only those which have the best quality. And since scouting for these smart and trendy gears would surely take away some of your precious time, you would certainly wish that you would get over this school opening and once-a-year important task quickly.

To help practical mothers get their children ready for school and to provide the kids a great headstart as the new school year opens, SM Department Store has a complete line of school uniforms, physical education uniforms, as well as shoes and accessories for boys and girls. Stylish school items such

SMART/ F4

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Clinic for kids to develop love for reading

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From page F1

her child on the program. When her child no longer sought her help in her homework, Aparis realized that the reading workshop worked.

"She's been getting 'As' now," Aparis said.

It was a request from her child to enroll again to another reading workshop that led her to look for the teacher who conducted the workshop. She felt that the teacher served as an instrument for her child to overcome her learning difficulty and regain her self-confidence.

Aparis then brought up the idea of setting up a reading clinic to Encarnita Balayon, a teacher in English at De La Salle University Taft. Balayon was the speaker who discussed the learning styles of students in the school where Aparis' child attends. She had been teaching for 17 years.

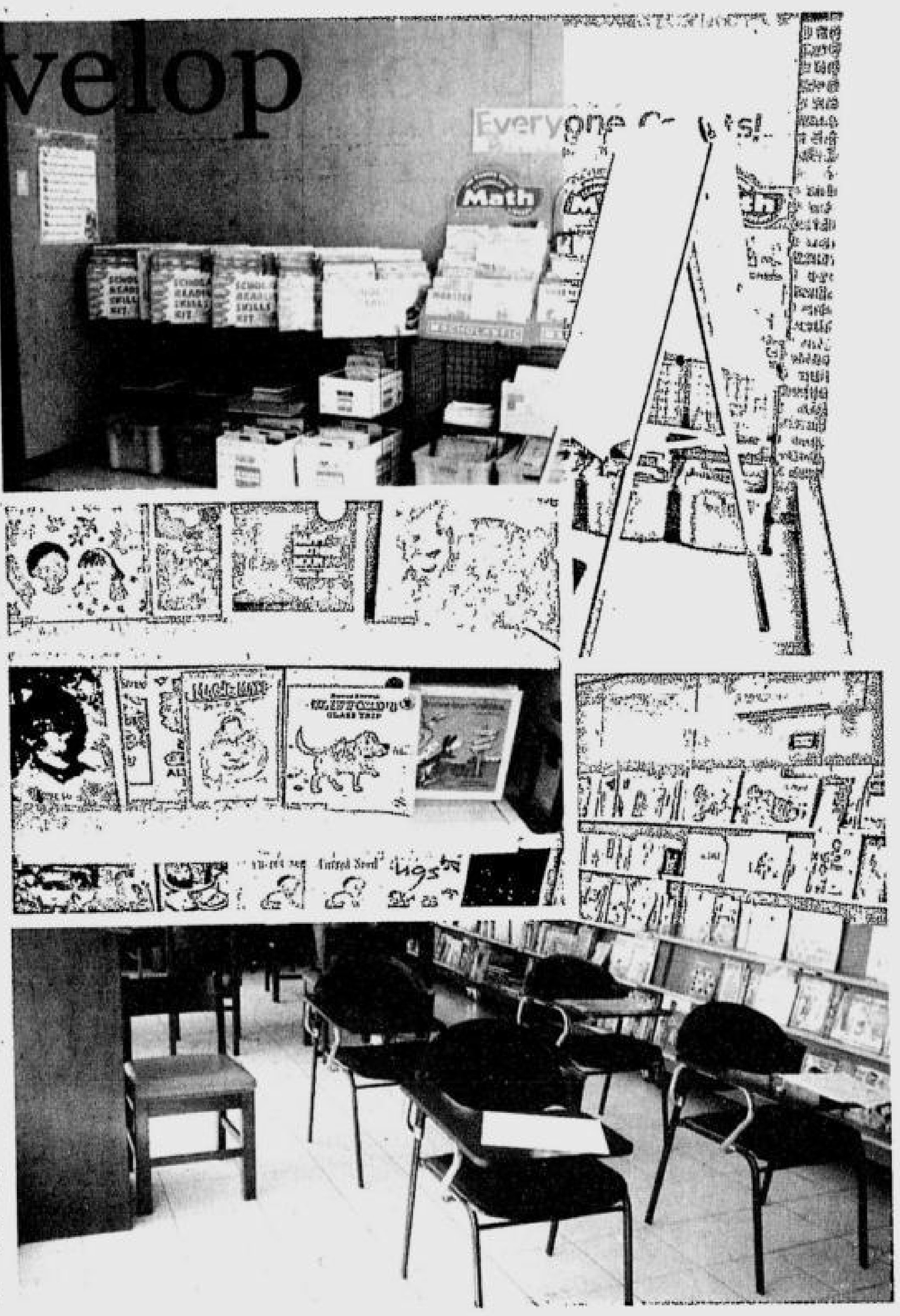
Bookgrove aims to complement the learning children experience in school. The reading clinic enhances the child's reading comprehension and addresses their weaknesses immediately.

Aparis believes that once a child's reading is enforced, the rest will follow.

The programs are offered to kids as young as two-and-a-half years old to high school students. An assessment test will be conducted to determine the level of lesson to be given to the child. Not every child who is in Grade 3 has the reading comprehension of the same grade level. Sometimes it is lower or sometimes it is even higher.

A 10-month program, Beginning Reading or Reading Readiness, is an introductory program for preschoolers. The child will start with recognizing the letters and then sounding them off.

"They have to master that one letter," said Teacher Carmen Sanchez.



The 30-hour program, Strategic Reading, aims to enable students to visualize, verbalize, and understand written text. Sanchez said there are students who are good in spoken English but could hardly express themselves in writing.

There are three sub-programs under Strategic Reading: Comprehension, Creative Writing, and Speech Clinic.

Comprehension helps children learn to appreciate and comprehend literary and academic reading text with fluency and express what they read by writing essays, summaries, and reports. Creative Writing provides writing strategies as entry point to essay writing, writing book reports, reaction papers, term papers, and technical writing. Speech Clinic is for individuals who wish to enhance their speaking abilities. It provides simulated activities that will improve speaking rate, diction, pronunciation, and tone of voice, and accent.

What distinguishes Bookgrove from the others is they allow the child to pick up the book they want to read and begin from there. In this way, it stimulates the interest of the child and additional lessons in the program will follow.

All the books and materials in the reading clinic are from Scholastic Publishing, the largest publishing company of children's books.

"Storytelling is one of the best activities to capture the attention of the children," Sanchez said.

Sometimes, Sanchez would read one story in a class composed of grade-schoolers and high school students. However, the activities and exercises given afterwards are different.

According to Sanchez who has been teaching since 1996, comprehension may be bad if the children have limited vocabulary. Reading stories is one way to improve it.

Aparis, who completed a degree in Computer Science in New York, said Bookgrove is not just for students who have problems in reading or difficulty in school. It is open to those who want to get ahead of their current reading comprehension level.

Improving and addressing weakness in reading skills help the child develop a reading strategy. Once reading is mastered, the other subjects will come easy. For the program to be more effective, Aparis suggests that it must be sustained by other programs.

Bookgrove also has its own Math library. The lessons are in reading form like problem solving. Aparis' child, now 13, is actually good in Math but is having a hard time in problem solving where reading comprehension is involved.

Developing a reading culture can lead to many good things in a child. It can pave the way to a healthier learning environment and boost the child's self-confidence.

Bookgrove is located at FDRC Building, 106 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. Call 914-1345, 641-3692.

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School's cool

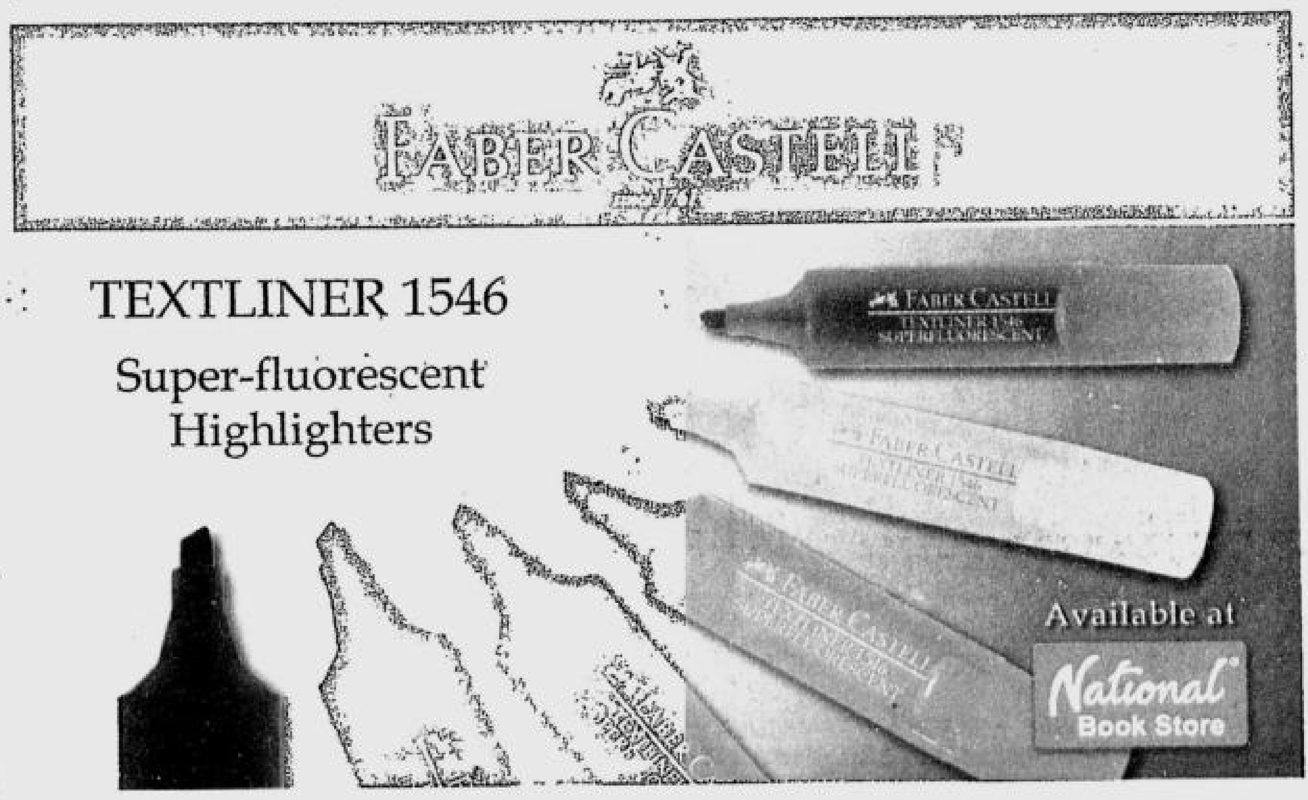
WITH SUMMER ON THE WANE AND SCHOOL ABOUT TO hit full swing, it's time to update your wardrobe for some easy breezy apparel to get into gear.

To celebrate the return to bookbags and scheduled lunch breaks, NafNaf busts out the goods in print-crazy form. The label issued a series of tunics in boho patterns and floral styles. Perfect for layering over the rainy months of June and July, the tunics, which come in mid-thigh to knee-length, can be paired with jeans or tights.

Dresses keep it casual in simple empire-cut, tie-back styles. V-neck and printed, they spell the difference between chic and practical. Forget the everyday T-shirts and ratty jeans, NafNaf's dresses help keep the style factor up and the high-maintenance level low. Thrown on a pair of easy-to-wear ballet flats or some tie-up sandals and you're good to go.

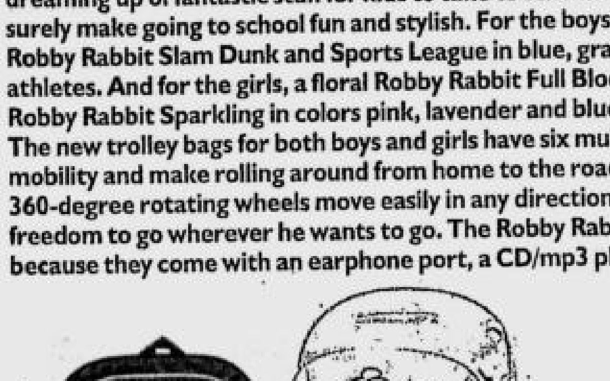
Now if only your report card could say the same.

Fashion by NAFNAF
Photos by SARA BLACK
Styling by BEA LEDESMA
Makeup by JIGS MAYUGA
Hair by RAYMOND SANTIAGO
Modeled by LARA PERKINS and ANGELA BOYD of D&J Talent Management and JACKIE MITCHELL
Shot on location at DIAMOND HOTEL (tel. 528-3000)



HOP BACK TO SCHOOL WITH ROBBY RABBIT

School is much more fun with Robby Rabbit in tow. That's why Robby Rabbit never stops dreaming up of fantastic stuff for kids to take to school! The new collections for 2007 will surely make going to school fun and stylish. For the boys, there are new collections such as the Robby Rabbit Slam Dunk and Sports League in blue, gray and black-perfect for your little athletes. And for the girls, a floral Robby Rabbit Full Bloom and Playful Robby Rabbit and Robby Rabbit Sparkling in colors pink, lavender and blue encourages both beauty and brains. The new trolley bags for both boys and girls have six multi-directional spinner wheels for easy mobility and make rolling around from home to the road and to the classroom a breeze. The 360-degree rotating wheels move easily in any direction-allowing your bright student the freedom to go wherever he wants to go. The Robby Rabbit backpacks make organization easy because they come with an earphone port, a CD/mp3 player pocket, and several compartments for other basic necessities. And for the rainy school openings, the new Robby Rabbit raincoat has a clear plastic hood zipper and expandable bag compartment that not only protects your little genius, but also his backpack as well. How smart is that? Robby Rabbit surely makes going back to school a lot more exciting than ever before.



Back to school with W. Brown

W. BROWN MEN'S FOOTWEAR WELCOMES the coming school year with a variety of shoes that the students will surely want to wear the whole year. What's more, these shoes are easy on the budget. While students are more than happy to choose from the wide choices of styles, the moms will also be more than happy to know that the prices are only from P895 for PU leather all the way to just P1695 for genuine leather.

"Our shoes come in different styles from the classic round toe to the trendier squarish or pointed," says Batchie Magat, marketing manager for W. Brown. "We keep in touch with the latest trends while keeping in mind the preferred price range of our customers."

W. Brown is available in all leading department-stores nationwide and has three concept stores: Festival Mall, SM San Lazaro and soon to open in Trinoma.

Tips on how to choose the right school shoes for your children:

Shop for shoes in the afternoon. Our feet swell in the afternoon and they are at their biggest. As such, this would be the best time to find the right fit of shoes.

School shoes should be lightweight. This will allow the students to feel comfortable even after a whole day of walking, running, standing and playing around.

The upper part of the shoe should be soft enough to allow the feet to flex easily when walking thus, not giving any strain on the feet.

Ideally, the outsole should be wedge and not heeled (wedge means the outsole of the shoe is continuous from the heel part to the forefoot of the shoe). This gives even support from the back to the front of the feet.

For convenience (especially for younger students), slip-on or velcro shoes are recommended. This allows the student to simply slip on or slip out of the shoes easily without the hassle of lacing up the shoes.

There should be enough cushioning on the insole of the shoe. This will give the students the comfort they need throughout the day.

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Star Paper Corporation

Love your kids with Happy Feet school shoes

WELCOME THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR with a smile with Happy Feet Kids school shoes! Happy Feet kids school shoes put an end to aching feet and surly scholars because Happy Feet designed them with your kids in mind. Happy Feet Kids school shoes are made of top grain genuine leather uppers that are healthy for developing feet.

Top grain is the best kind of genuine leather. Soft and breathable, they pamper your kids feet while providing support to their developing bones and muscles. The genuine leather uppers provide durability for play, flexibility for growth, and the cool comfort to relax. The top grain leather lining also absorbs sweat and draws away heat from your child's feet. The genuine leather sock liner gives coolness that no synthetic lining can ever give. And there's no such thing as man-made leather - anything else is synthetic and it's not Happy feet Kid's shoes.

Happy Feet Kids shoes cradle your child's feet, helping them develop properly as they cruise through their school age years. The quilted doodle-like design on the sock liner is the Spiral Air Flow and it has a purpose-from the ball area, to the arch, to the heel-the padding and contours give your child's foot the support that it needs.

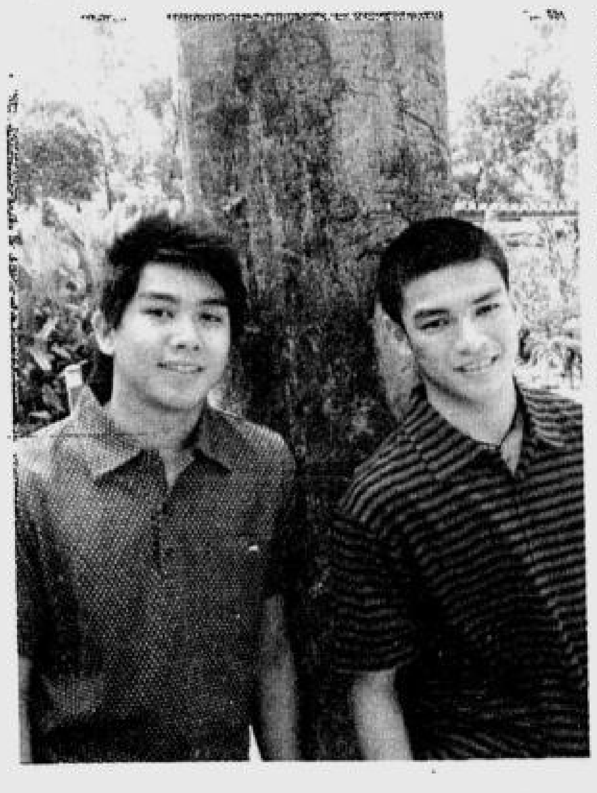
As with all Happy Feet endeavors, Filipino craftsmanship and quality is promoted and for your child's shoes, Happy Feet has collaborated with a family who has been in the shoe manufacturing business since 1910. In fact, Happy Feet believes in the quality of materials used and the workmanship of Filipino shoe makers so much that it decided to cover Happy Feet Kids shoes with a one-year warranty.

And when you come back to the store next year and trade in your old pair of Happy Feet Kids shoes, you are offered a P200 trade-in value.

To purchase the kids shoes, visit selected Happy Feet stores located at San Juan (Wilson corner P. Guevarra, 726-5393), Glorietta 1 in Makati (818-6716), Robinsons Galleria (3rd Floor, 633-2739), Festival Supermall in Alabang, Robinsons Place Cainta (656-8028) and Pavillion Mall in Biñan, Laguna (049-4113181). Happy Feet is also available in Davao (0918-9251168) and Cagayan de Oro (0917-7061329). You can also e-mail queries@happyfeetsandals.com.

HCG, MERALCO TIE UP FOR 'MARTSA SA ESKWELA'
HCG, the leading brand in bathroom fixtures, joined hands with Meralco Millennium Foundation Inc (MMFI) in uplifting the sanitation of public schools to different parts of the country. HCG sponsored bathroom fixtures in the rehabilitation of various public schools chosen by the foundation. Shown are (from left): MMFI's program administrator, Christopher E. Yap; HCG marketing officer, Ana P. Flores; HCG assistant vice president for sales and marketing, Bruce Chien; Meralco's first vice president and head for human resources and corporate services Leonisa C. De La Llana and corporate MMFI's social representative, Gina Magno during the presentation of the certificate of donation to HCG.

Ducks Unlimited: ready for school challenges



BACK-TO-SCHOOL FOR ULTRA-CUTE commercial models and soon to be actors Andrei Inigo Nieves and Jerwin Forbes is exciting and challenging. Why? Aside from new classmates and new subjects, they are now the new models of Ducks Unlimited, that popular golf shirt that has become an affordable line of clothing for all ages.

Conservative. Cool. Classic. These are just some of the adjectives attributed to the brand, and traits found in the models' lifestyles today. Being Ducks Unlimited models, these cool dudes graduated this year at La Salle-Greenhills, and they know the responsibilities attached to that: to project a "positive, wholesome image and attitude" in public. "Which they are doing" said Ducks Unlimited publicist Shane Ayo Gunting.

Ducks Unlimited has shops in SM City-Pampanga, SM Southmall, SM City-San Lazaro, all Robinson Malls, SM-Marilao and other selected malls in Metro Manila.

It's back to school with Napoleon

NAPOLEON THE LEADING BRAND IN BOY'S apparel has recently released in the market its new school wear for boys aged 4 to 16. This includes white polo shirts in various cuts and long pants and short pants in shades of khaki, navy blue and black.

What makes Napoleon different from other regular school wear? The brand uses only high-grade imported fabrics, making them soft and smooth. Its superior construction assures you durability and its functional design provides your child the perfect fit: formal-looking yet comfortable and light.

Napoleon has been making high-class school uniforms since the 1960's and its products are exported to several countries across the globe. So you are guaranteed a tradition of world-class quality in every item you buy.

Napoleon School Wear is exclusively available in all SM Department Stores nationwide.

KIDS' CHOICE...
PARENTS & TEACHERS APPROVE!
merit
NOTEBOOKS
spiral note
merit
Spelling Tablet
D.I.Y. NOTEBOOK
INTERMEDIATE
Reynolds
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AVAILABLE AT ALL NATIONAL BOOKSTORES AND BETTER STORES NATIONWIDE.

LOVE your kids!
give them HAP

Top Grain Genuine Leather Upper -
We only use top grain genuine leather uppers to give your child's shoes the durability for play, the flexibility for growth, and the cool comfort to relax. Top Grain is the best of Genuine Leather. If it's not Genuine Leather, it's not leather - there's no such thing as man-made leather - anything else is synthetic and it's not Happy Feet Kids shoes.

Top Grain Genuine Leather Lining
We only use top grain leather lining to absorb your child's feet's sweat. Any closed environ is hot, and synthetic lining makes it even hotter. This may become the breeding ground for germs. Top grain genuine leather absorbs the sweat to draw most of it away from your child's feet.

Top Grain Genuine Leather Sock Liner
We only use top grain leather lining to give comfort and coolness. This makes it better for your child's feet.

Spiral Air Flow
That quilted doodle-like design on the sock liner has a purpose! We've designed it to build support where it's needed, arch and heel -left for a wide surface for the foot ball to rest – and gave the toes some grip area.

Arch Support
Notice that bounce in your child's step? That's because your child is developing his foot muscles and bones properly and we've put the arch support as a little insurance to make sure his feet continue to develop well.

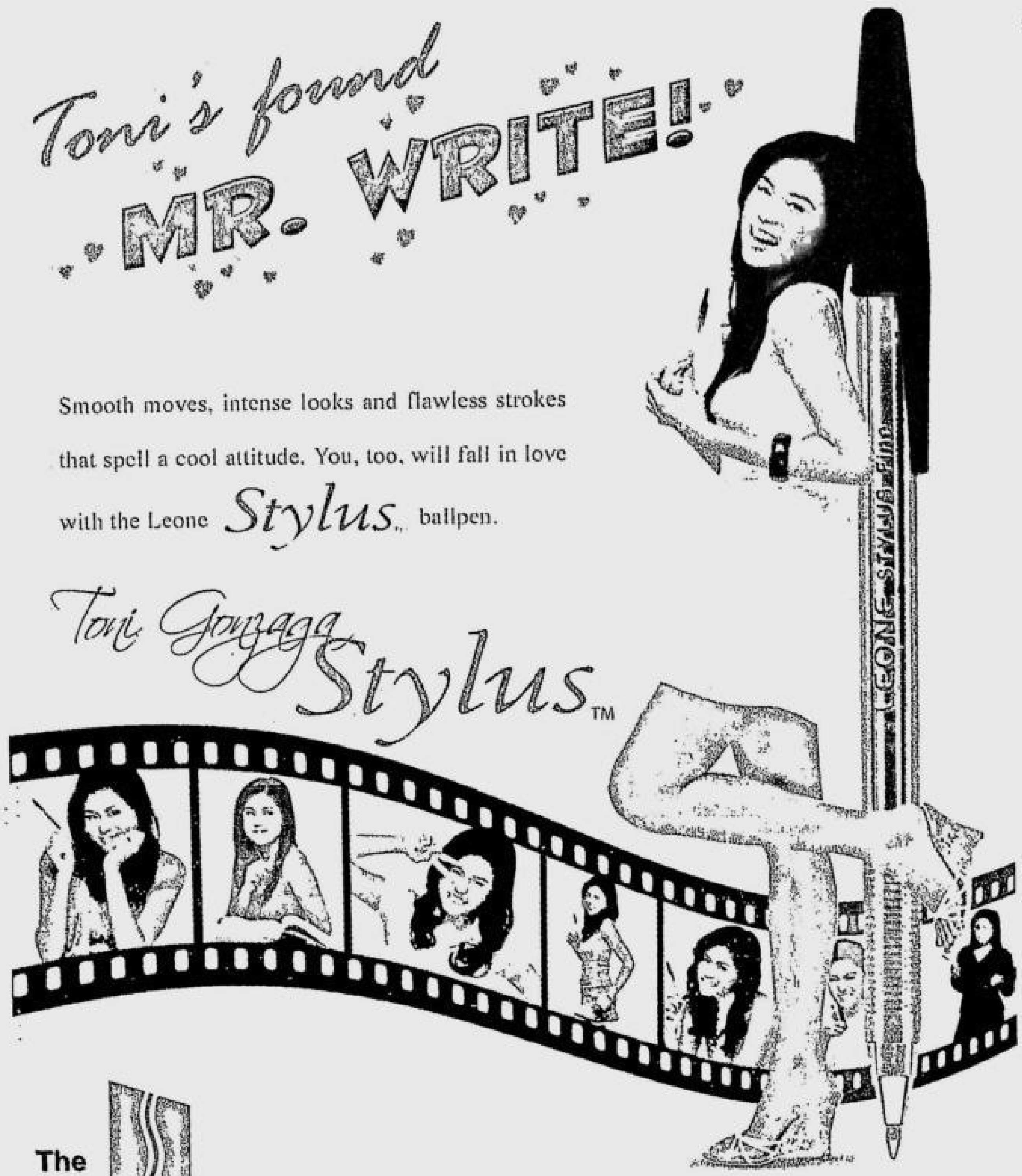
Heel Spiral
Your child's heels are taken cared of to help prevent injuries during times of strenuos physical activity.

Get **P200 OFF** on your **new pair** of Happy Feet Kids Shoes **next year** when you **trade in** your old pair of Happy Feet Kids shoes!
*Your old pair of school shoes will be donated to charity.

ONE YEAR WARRANTY!
See warranty provisions for details.

HAPPY FEET

Happy Feet Kids Shoes are available at our stores in **San Juan** (Wilson cor. P. Guevarra, tel. no **726-5393**), **Glorietta 1** in Makati (tel. **818-6716**), **Robinsons Galleria** (3rd Floor, tel. no **633-2739**), **Festival Supermall** in Alabang, **Robinsons Place Cainta** (tel. no **656-8028**) and **Pavillion Mall** in Biñan, Laguna (tel. no **049-411-3181**). Also available in **Davao** (**0918-925-1168**) and Cagayan de Oro (**0917-706-1329**). You can also email us at **queries@happyfeetsandals.com.**


Toni's found MR. WRITE!
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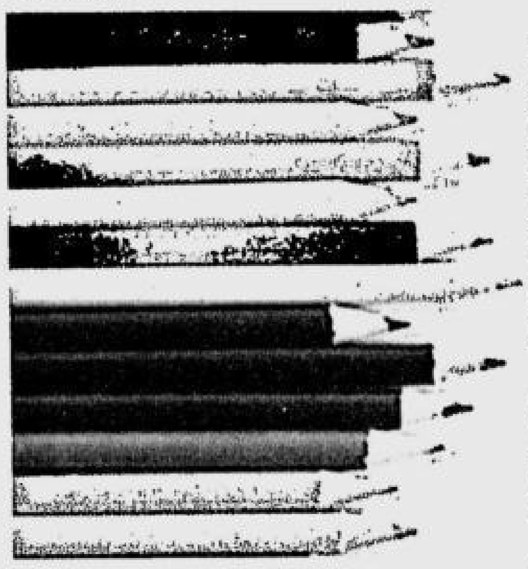
Smart gear for the new school year

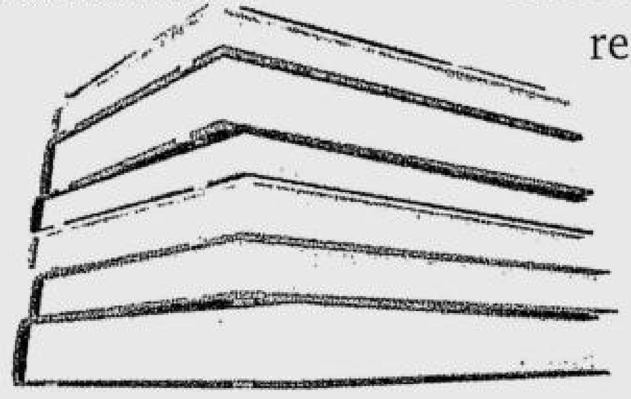
From page F1



as water jugs and school bags, socks and lunch kits also come in handy. Kids would certainly love going back to school with their new, cool school gear.

With SM Department Store, moms are also assured that they would get only the best quality. These even come at very reasonable prices in which SM has always been known. And with a complete selection of school must-haves, shopping would surely be a breeze for busy moms.

Looking for the right school bag for your kids? SM's Children's Accessories department offers a wide variety of trendy school bags. Here, you can select from trolley bags, sling bags or even back packs which kids would surely love. Also available, are lunch kits, juicers and food keepers which are essentials for lunch break and recess.



You want your kids to always look their best? The Children's Wear section has a complete line of school's everyday basics. There are short-sleeved and long-sleeved white polos for boys as well as shirt jacks and navy and khaki pants and shorts. White blouses, navy blue pleated skirts, and cotton underwear are also available for girls. To complete their basic wear, comfortable black school shoes can be had at the Children's Shoes Department while cotton school socks are available at Children's Accessories.

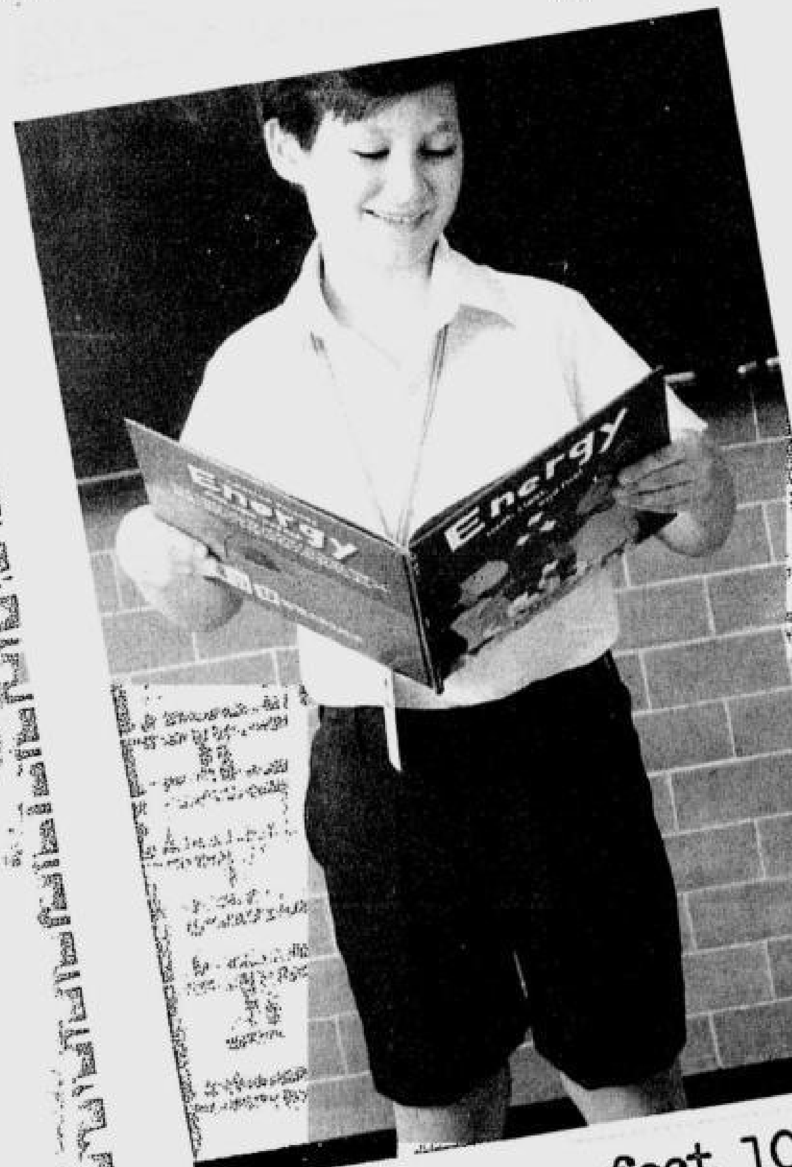
For the children's needs in physical education classes, round-neck cotton shirts in a variety of solid colors and basic jogging pants are available at the Children's Wear section while water bottles and sports socks can be had at the Children's Accessories section.

School opening is just a few weeks away and now is the best time for back-to-school shopping for kids. Plus, with A+ style at SM Department Store, moms will be glad to know that their kids get a great headstart on school with all the right school gear!

> With SM Department Store, moms are also assured that they would get only the best quality. These even come at very reasonable prices in which SM has always been known

A+ Style Store

SM back-to-school A+ style and fashion



Scoring a perfect 10 in classroom appeal

On your way to the big A in neat gear
all in white
everyday sandos and briefs in white cotton knit
dress code
look nifty in white cotton polo and khaki school shorts
buckle up for class
choose the belt that fits
available in brown or black
stride right to class
in shoes with lace, buckles or velcro closure

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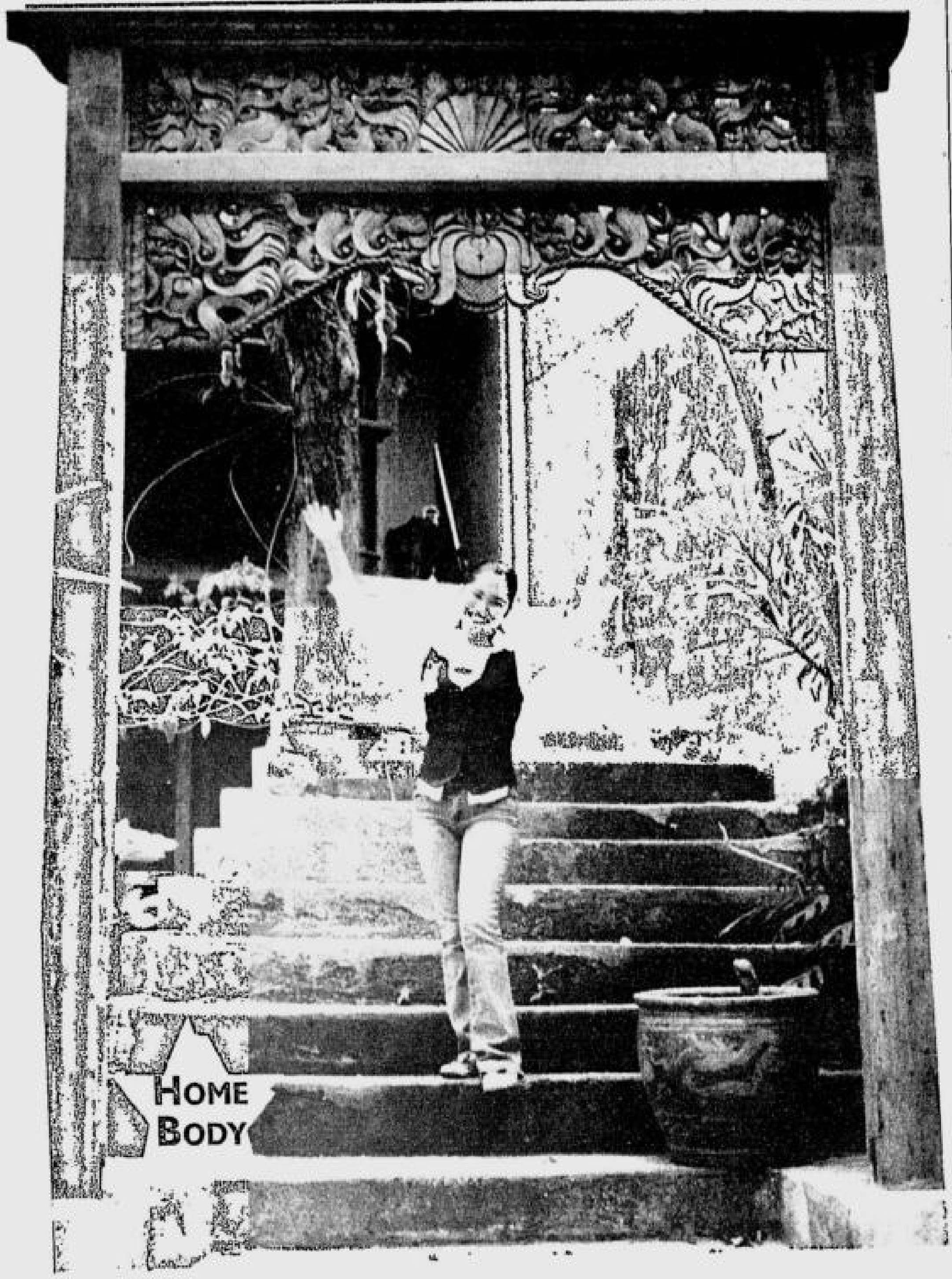

RODEL ROTONI

WELCOME TO MY WORLD
Young painter-singer Isabella Gonzales used to live in the guest house (entrance shown here). Then she moved into an artist's loft on what used to be mom Kuh Ledesma's terrace. Kuh helped build it, but the design is distinctly Isabella's. "It's my inspiration room," she says. More photos of the studio/office/mini-theater in Homebody, p. G/4.

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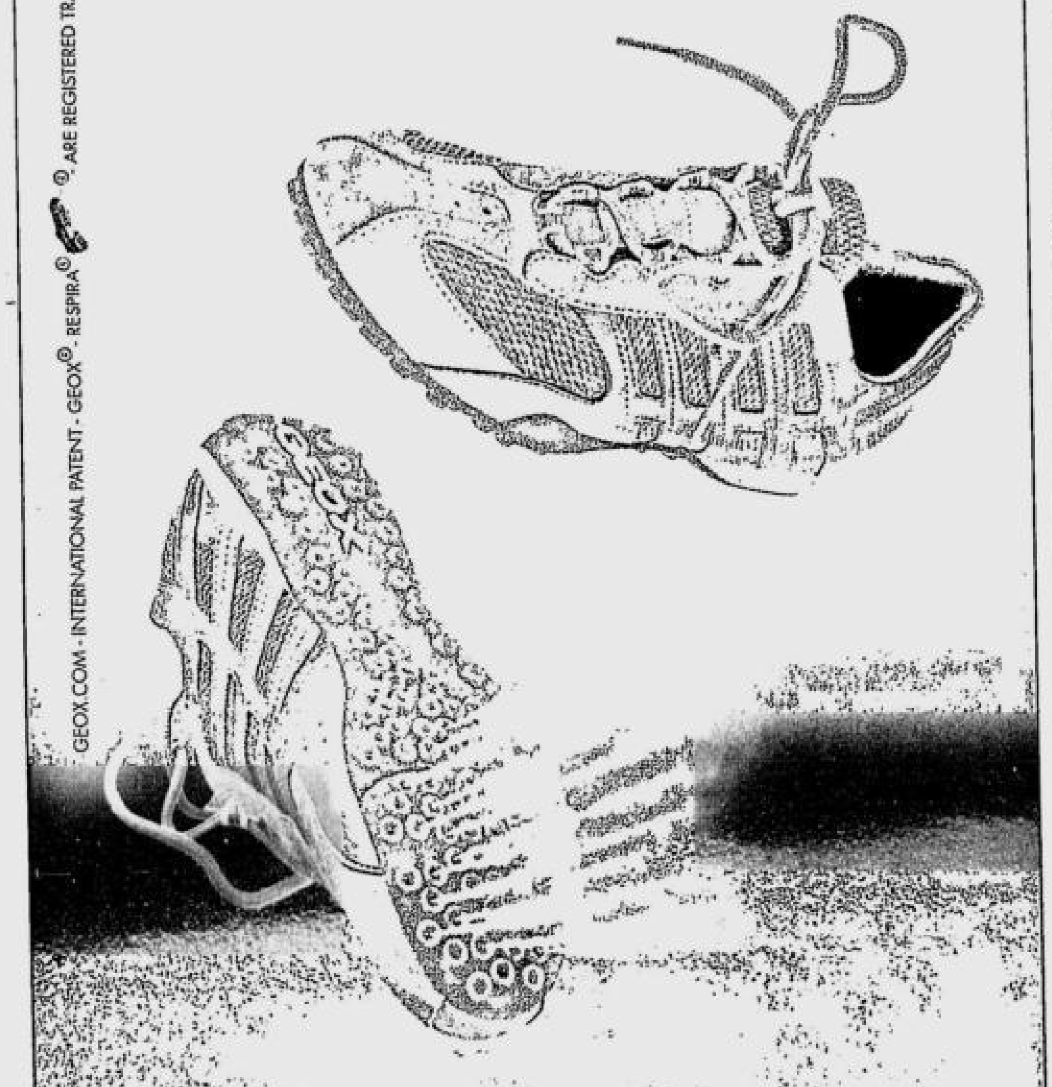
BREATHES



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sun CELLULAR
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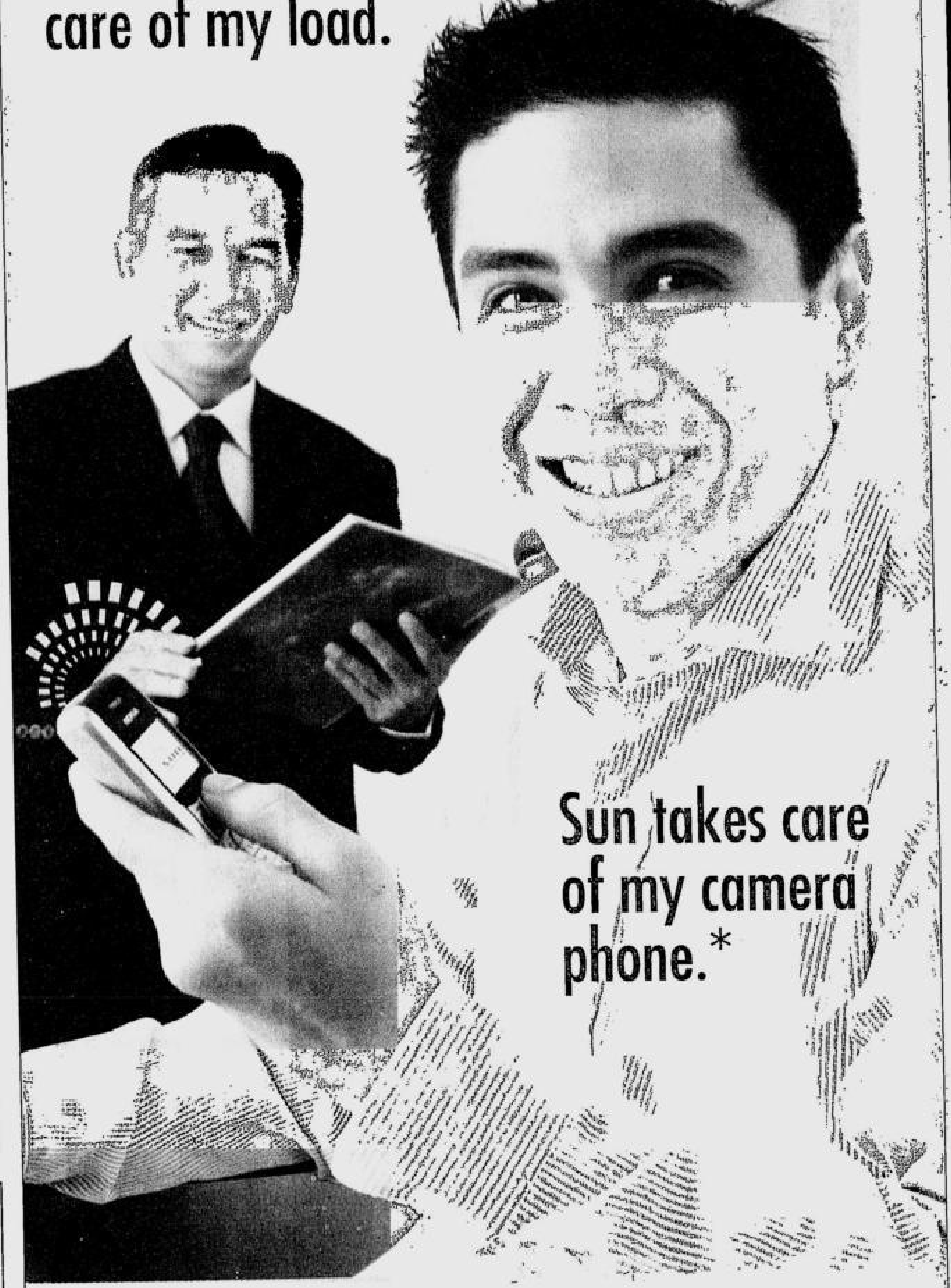
Sun takes care of my camera phone.*

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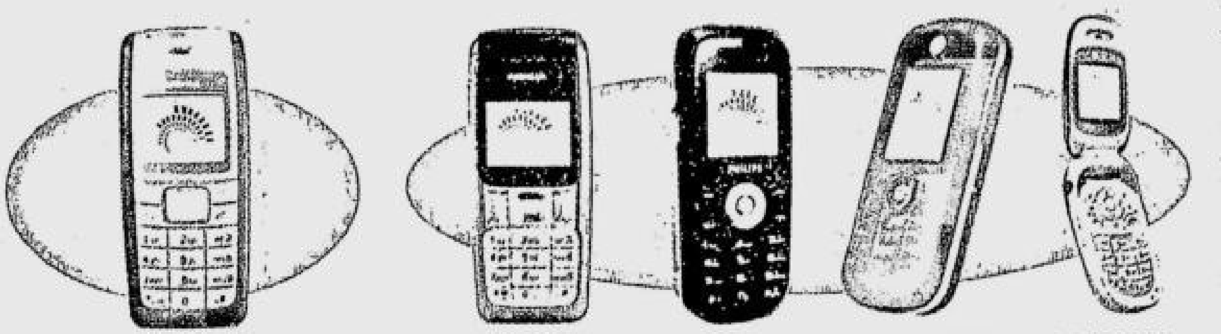

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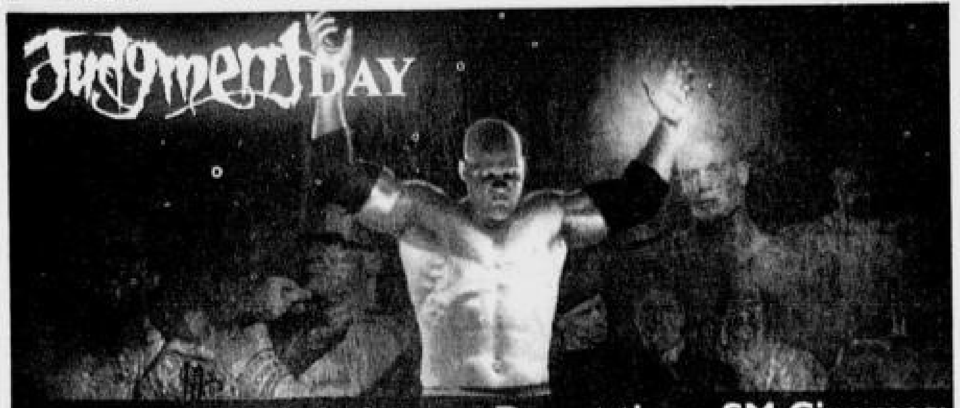

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Weekend Screenings: May 25 (Friday) 7:00 p.m. May 26 (Saturday) • May 27 (Sunday) 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.

Admission Prices: P 150 (Metro Manila) • P 120 (Cebu, Clark, Pampanga) • P 90 (Davao)
With P 20 OFF for students

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0242
IMAX
SPIDER-MAN 3
12:30PM 3:30PM 6:30PM 9:30PM
Admission Prices: P 300
(Before 5 p.m., Mon-Thu)
P 350 (After 5 p.m., Mon-Thu; Whole Day, Fri-Sun, Holidays)
T-REX
11:00AM Admission Prices: P 200
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3/ WHISPER
SHREK 3/ FRACTURE
PREMIERE CINEMA
SPIDER-MAN 3
CENTERSTAGE
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
CINEMA 2
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
FRACTURE
SHREK 3
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
WHISPER
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
28 WEEKS LATER
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
WHISPER
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
28 WEEKS LATER
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
FRACTURE
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
WHISPER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
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SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
SHREK 3
WHISPER

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
WHISPER
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
28 WEEKS LATER
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

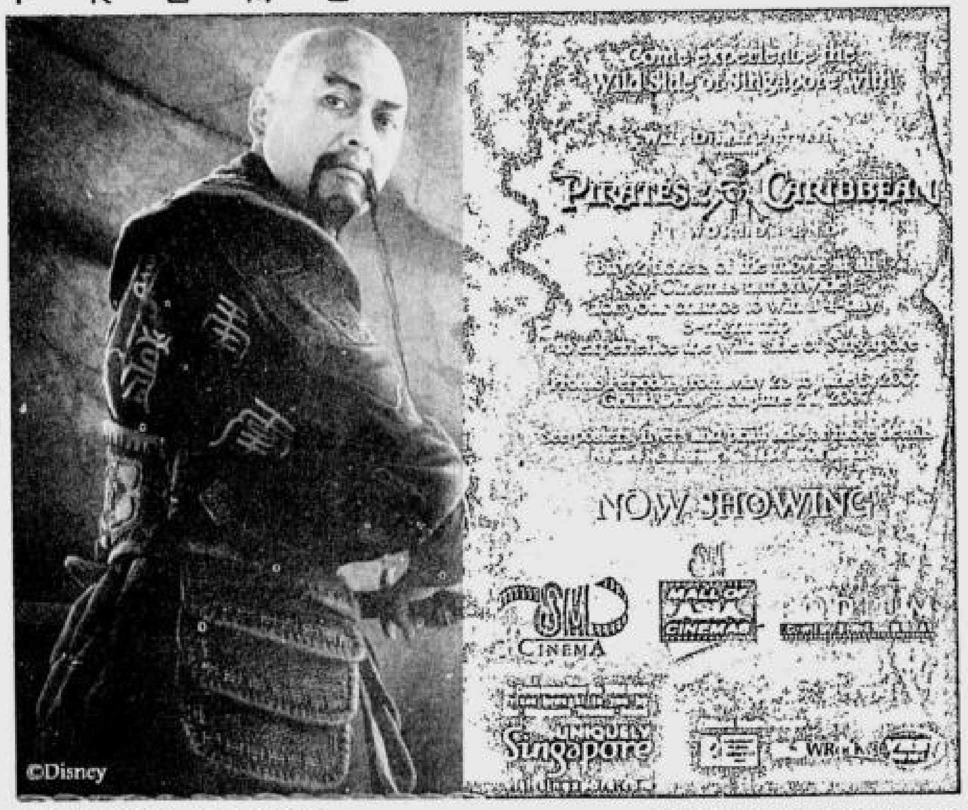
SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3

moviètime PROMO

Watch and Win at SM Cinema



LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
28 WEEKS LATER
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
LUCKY YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
LUCKY YOU
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SUNSHINE
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SPIDER-MAN 3
SUNSHINE
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
FIREHOUSE DOG
SHREK 3
MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
SPIDER-MAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
SHREK 3
SUNSHINE/ SPIDER-MAN 3

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1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 • THX
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
1:25 4:35 7:45

2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

7 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
12:10 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:30

3 SHREK 3
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 indieSine: BALIW
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 WHISPER 12:20 2:45
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 5:05 8:15

9 FRACTURE 12:05 3:20
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3 6:05 9:15

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30

10 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:15 4:05 6:55 9:45

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10:25 1:50 5:15 8:40

2 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8.00 10:00

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:10 2:35 6:00 9.25

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

6 SHREK 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 FRACTURE 12:30 2:50
WHISPER 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12.00 3:25 6:50 10.00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price P100 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 SHREK 3
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

5 FRACTURE 12:30 2:45
WHISPER 5:10 7:00 9:00

2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
10:30 1:40 4:50 8:00

6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3:10 6:20

3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12.00 3:10 6:20 9:30

4 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20

8 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P[illegible] 936-3211 / 936-3229-30

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3

4 MESSAEG from HEAVEN
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
6 SHREK 3

PIONEER

Ticket Price P100 687-6378

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
1:10 4:35 8:00

2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
10:20 1:40 5:05 8:30

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:30 2:10 4:50

4 SHREK 3
12.05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price P80 (049) 837-0907

1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SHREK 3
4 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

LIPA

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1 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price P80 (046) 416-4332

1 MESSAGE from HEAVEN
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
5 SHREK

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4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 LUCKY YOU
6 SHREK 3

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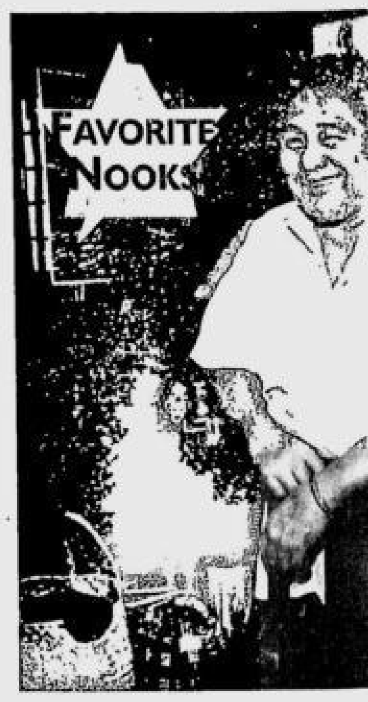

LUIS ALANDY

I'M READING "JOHNNY DEPP: Brian J. Robb. He has always fasc his movies: "Chocolat," "Fear and "Blow" and "Pirates of the Caribb centric and creative actor. He doe just another pretty boy or blockb to make his characters different e trying to emulate him but, from what makes him a good actor: cr took a while before he earned H that made me realize that it coul an actor could reach his goal.

RED CARPET

Cannes kisses

SMOOCHING on the red carpet at the Cannes premiere of Quentin Tarantino's "Death Proof" on Tuesday.

TRACIE Thoms and Rosario Dawson REUTERS

GOLDIE Hawn and Kurt Russell AFP

QUENTIN Tarantino and New Zealander actress Zoe Bell AFP

ROSE McGowan and Tracie Thoms (again!) AFP

WELL almost... Rose McGowan and director Robert Rodriguez AFP

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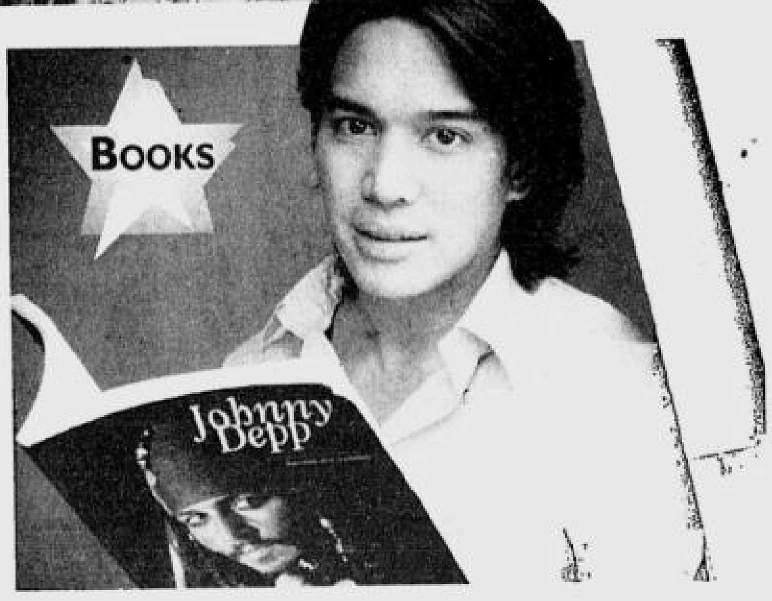
MARYO J. DE LOS REYES

MY FAVORITE CORNER IN MY LAGUNA rest house is the terrace on the second floor. My bedroom leads to this terrace. I feel relaxed whenever I hang out there. My guests even sleep out on the terrace at night. They just pull out those chaise lounge beds and sleep under the moon and stars. The terrace is an instant inspiration that led to instant construction. I do a lot of entertaining there. It can accommodate many people—a virtual assembly! I can see Mount Makiling from there, too. That mountain is a great mystery. I hope to make a movie on Maria Makiling's love affairs soon.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS



A MODERN REBEL" BY
inated me. I've watched
Loathing in Las Vegas,"
ean 1 and 2." He's an ec-
sn't want to be known as
uster star. He endeavors
ich time. It's not that I'm
this book, I've learned
eativity and patience. It
ollywood's respect and
d take a lifetime before

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

DUMOND

The Dumond brand is the result of another Paqueta's Group's entrepreneurial vision. Inspired in the main international trends, Dumond manufactures products of higher quality meaning fashion with creativity and Brazilian touch.

In addition, the innovative, sophisticated and attractive design of Dumond stores places the consumers in the ideal situation to know, to try on and to choose our products.

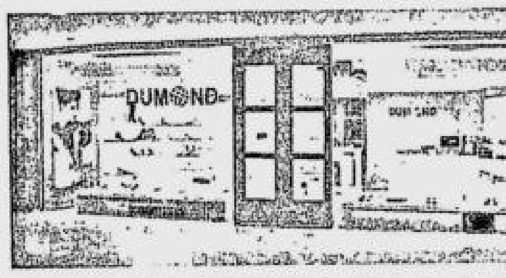
Project: Customer well-being and outstanding for products

The Dumond store environment is the perfect scenario to a closer contact with the consumer, since it present the brand's concept in all senses.

The pleasant, cozy and comfortable climate of the store is a result of a carefully planned architecture and the excellence in service and assistance rendering.

Studies and researches with consumers were the basis for the store's architectural project. Taking into consideration the consumers' opinion and the world's current retail trends, it has created a space with a clean environment and a flexible structure, easy to get adapted to the retail seasonality.

The product quality and design are highlighted by its exhibition inside the stores. The illumination of the furniture was carefully planned to give due value to the models and their colors, exhibiting the products.



The store's thematic is renewed for each collection, nevertheless it keeps the differentials and the features representing Dumond, regarding elegance, quality, innovation and originality.

Dumond Stores

Focused on fashion and innovation, Dumond stores transmit the concept and the image according to the target profile. They are up-dated and agreeable stores, being ahead, either in their environment and comfort, as well as in their service rendering.

Brand Building

Dumnd maintains a constant care with its concept and positioning. To achieve these objectives the following factors are being worked on: differentiated products with many fashion information and the highest quality; strong work of press advisory (Mkt Mix); heavy investment in publicity campaigns (photographer, models and first-line production of fashion); external media on strategical points; ads in the most important fashion magazines of the country and website.

The result of this work is noticeable because of the positive return Dumond receives from its consumers and customers, and mainly because of the brand's visibility ever growing due to the opinion making public; journalists, stylists and fashion producers

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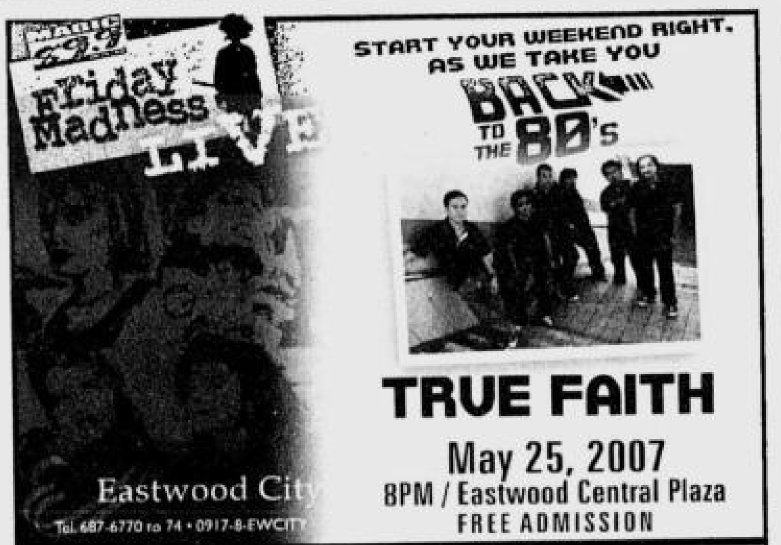
May 18 SM Manila • May 19 SM Valenzuela • May 20 SM North EDSA
BAR TOUR
Cowboy Grill - May 17, 18 and 20 • Mugen Bar, Metrowalk - May 19



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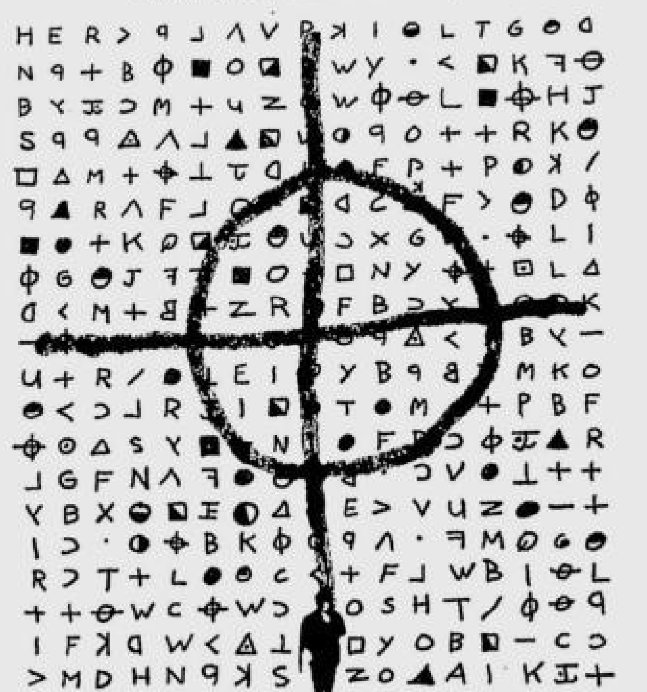
2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3	12:40, 4:10, 7:50, 11:30	G
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3	12:00, 3:30, 7:10, 10:50	G
4	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3	11:30, 2:50, 6:30, 10:10	G

OPENS MAY 30!

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

MARK RUFFALO
JAKE GYLLENHAAL
ROBERT DOWNEY JR.

WHEN A SERIES OF MURDERS TERRORIZED CALIFORNIA, ONE MAN TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM ALL



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3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
PREMIERE
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

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Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 SHREK THE THIRD

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 RESERVED

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(ALABANG) tel. 8504265, 8433994
1 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 (DTS) 28 WEEKS LATER
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
8 SHREK THE THIRD
9 SPIDER-MAN-3
10 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341937
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2 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
5 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

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1 CONDEMNED
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN

Masagana CINEMA
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3

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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD
4 SPIDER-MAN-3 / LUCKY YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 TURISTAS

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
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4

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(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
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Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1 THE HILLS OF EYES
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
3 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE CONDEMNED
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 RAMPADORA
3 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
4 THE CONDEMNED

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2 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 HANNIBAL RISING
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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1 FIREHOUSE DOG
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY

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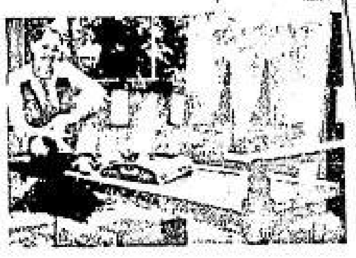
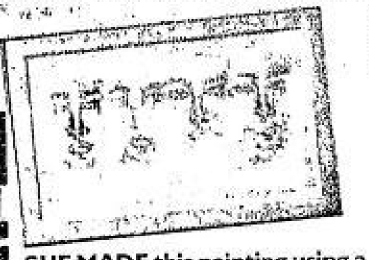


ISABELLA spruced up the terrace with a wooden chaise lounge, old suitcase and a painting from a garage sale in LA.

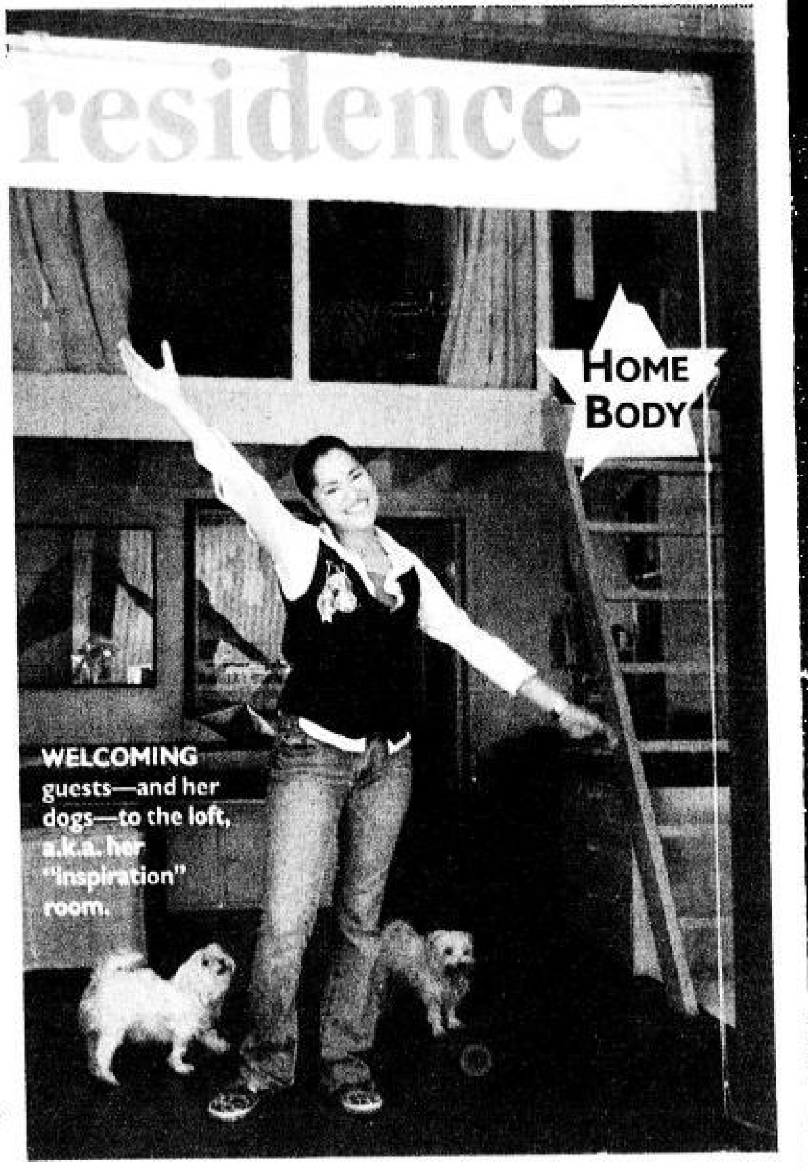


SHE MADE this painting using a technique called photocopy transfer.

Artist in residence

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by Rodel Rotoni



WELCOMING guests—and her dogs—to the loft, a.k.a. her "inspiration" room.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, ISABELLA GONZALES CREated a painting entitled "Teenage Frustration."

"It depicts a girl who lives in a glass house. I never expected that, years later, I would end up living in such a house," explains the daughter of singer Kuh Ledesma and businessman Louie Gonzales. "Maybe it was God's way of preparing me for life in show biz."

The budding singer-painter's design flair is evident in her loft—what used to be the terrace of her mom's Pasay City house. It is divided into a studio and office, with a mini-theater upstairs. "I call the mini-theater my inspiration room."

The girl loves movies—from classics like "My Fair Lady" to recent blockbusters like "300."

Last Christmas, her godmother Precy Florentino (of Teatrino and Greenhills Theater) gifted her with a digital projector.

Last month, she asked for old movie posters, tarpaulins and standees from Ninang Precy, which she used as décor for her birthday party dubbed 'Junk Food Film Festival and Costume Party Awards."

"Every three months, I rearrange the stuff in my house," she says. "My mom had the animal-print couch covers sewn recently."

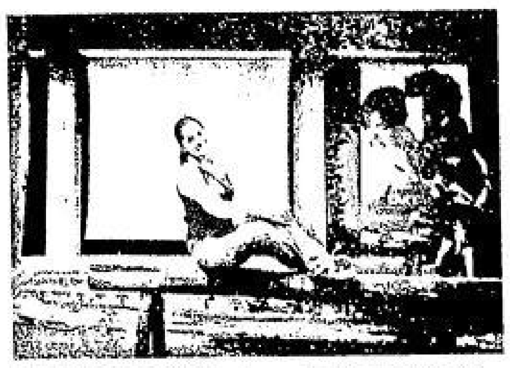
Mom was a big help in constructing the loft. "She started building while I was in London five years ago. The loft is the mini-me of my mom's house."

Excitedly, Kuh relayed the news to Isabella that she had built a kitchen at the back of the studio. Unfortunately, she (Kuh) forgot to have a sink installed. "So we turned the kitchen into a stock room," Isabella says.

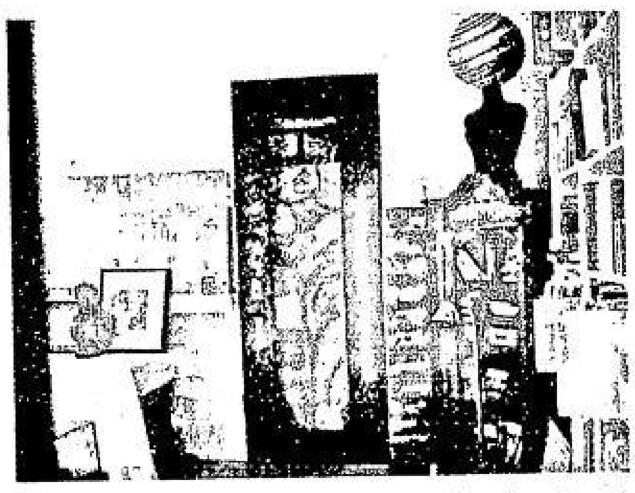
Ever creative, Isabella put up a life-size nude behind the glass door that leads to the stock room. "I was inspired to do that painting after watching the film 'Frida,'" she recalls. "It's a work in progress."

As is the loft ... and the artist in residence.

Welcome to Isabella's home, studio/office and mini-theater



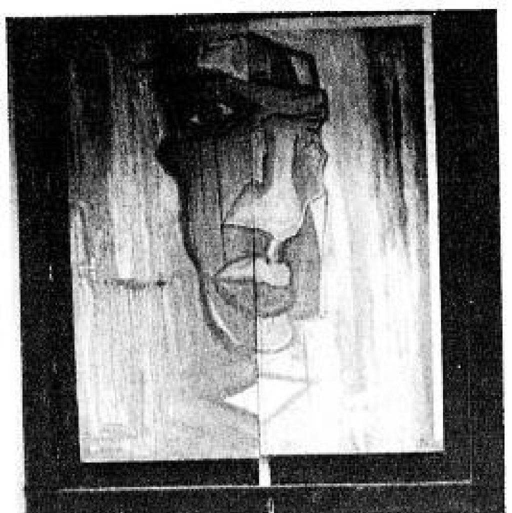
AT THE GARDEN, where she recently held screenings of different films for her movie-themed birthday party



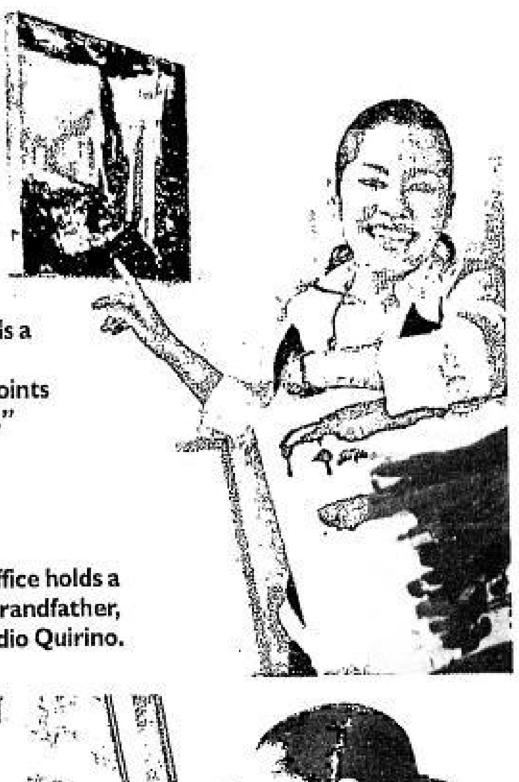
SHE INSTALLED a life-size nude behind the glass door that leads to the stockroom.

IN HER work station is a keyboard, a laptop and an iPod, as well as shelves of books.

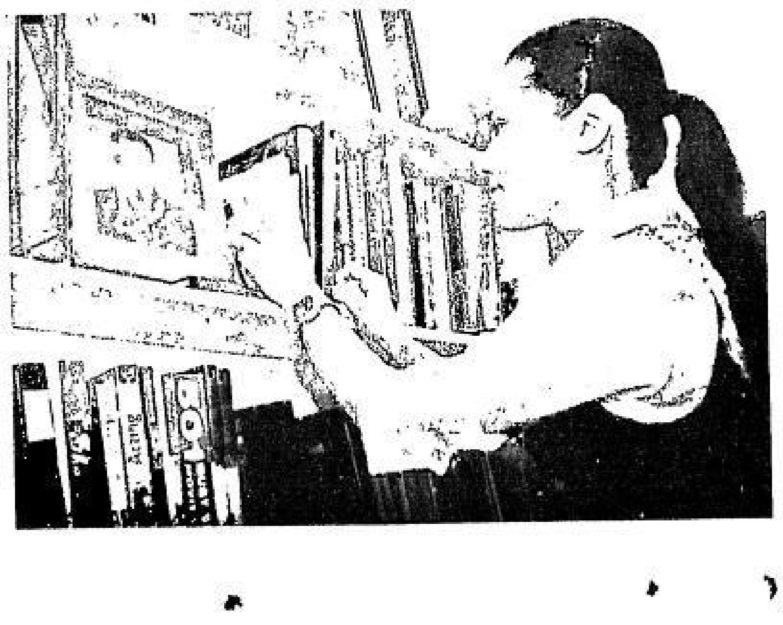
"THE REAPING" and "300" standees as party décor



THIS painting was bought by her Ninang Ruby at an auction. "But she asked me to keep it first," Isabella says.



IN THE office, she holds a painting titled "Subconscious" and points to "Walking into View."



BOOKSHELF in the office holds a portrait of her great grandfather, former President Elpidio Quirino.

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SPIDERMAN 3 1:30 / 4:20 / 7:10 / 10:00
FRACTURE 12:10 / 5:00 / 9:50
SHREK 3 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
WHISPER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30
28 WEEKS LATER 2:35 / 7:25
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 11:00 / 2:20 / 5:40 / 9:00
ALI MALL 5
1 SHREK 3 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 12:40 / 3:50 / 7:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 11:30 / 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00
4 MESSAGE FROM HEAVEN 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
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WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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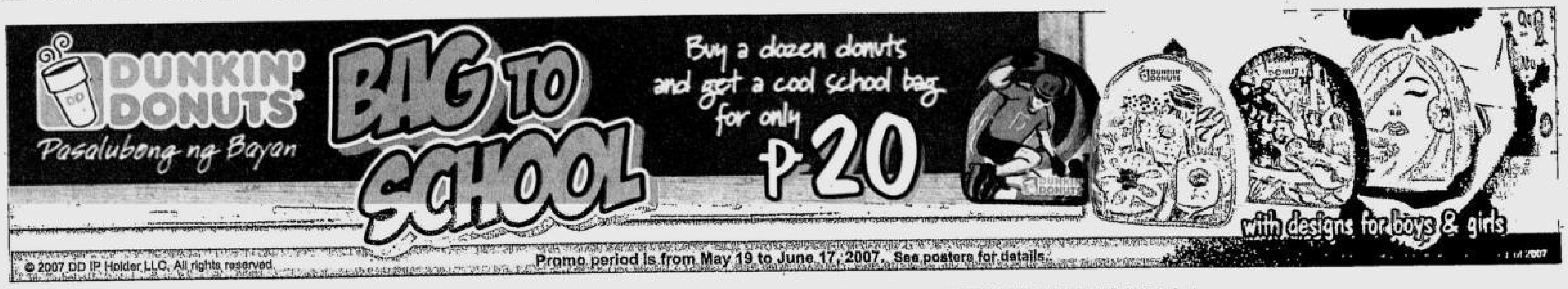
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Brad-Angelina fever hits Cannes

ANGELINA Jolie and Brad Pitt depart after the gala screening of "A

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

CANNES, FRANCE—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt swept this city off its feet, not only with their A-list star wattage and media "hotness" quotient but with their movie, which boasts of the actress' award nomination-worthy performance and relevant story.

The press con for "A Mighty Heart," where Angelina plays Mariane Pearl, wife of slain journalist Daniel Pearl, and where Brad has an offscreen role as producer, was not the usual serious media event in the ongoing film festival. The number of jour-

BRAD/ H4

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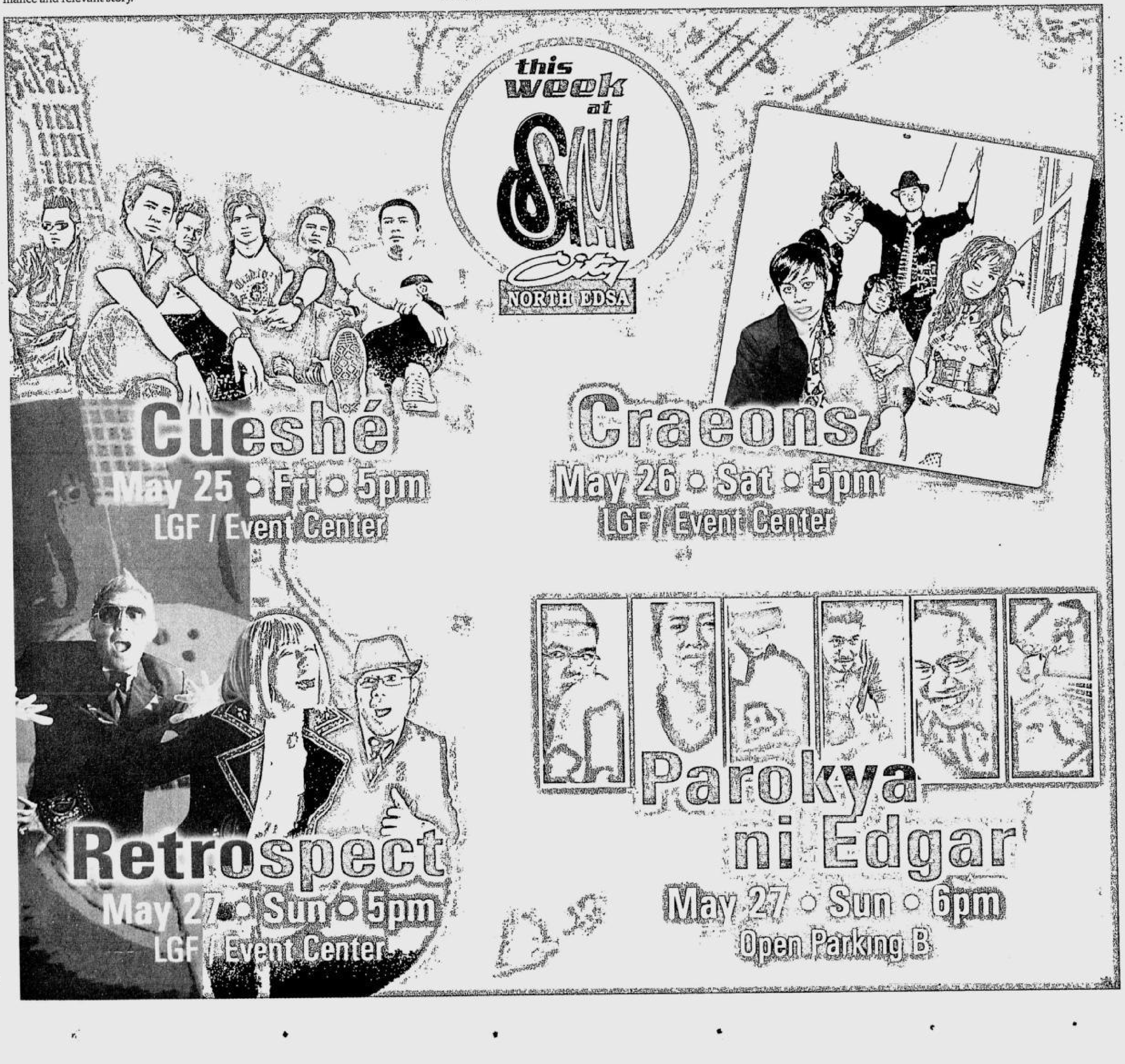
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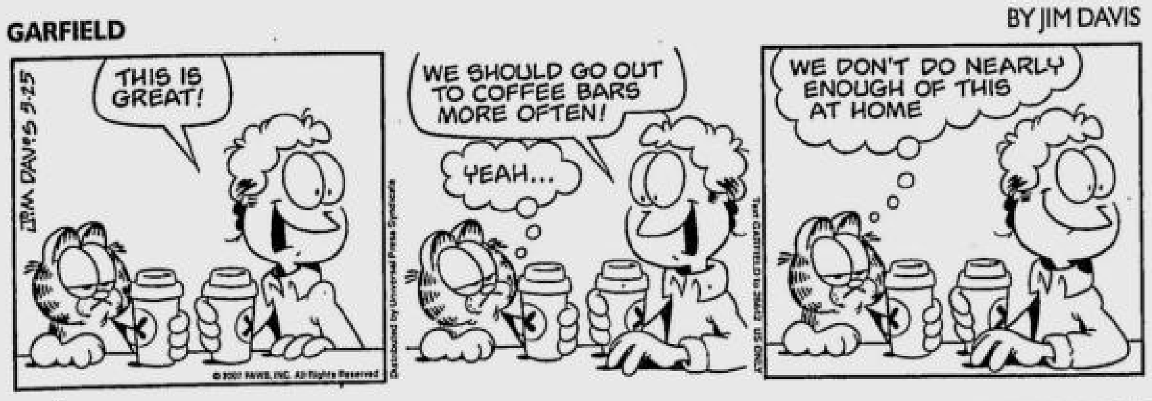
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JIM DAVIS 5-25
THIS IS GREAT!
WE SHOULD GO OUT TO COFFEE BARS MORE OFTEN!
YEAH...
WE DON'T DO NEARLY ENOUGH OF THIS AT HOME
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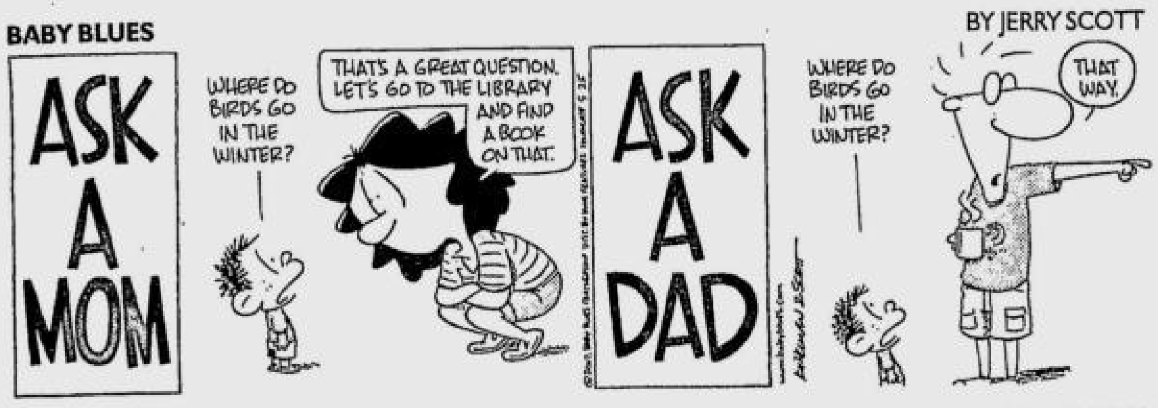
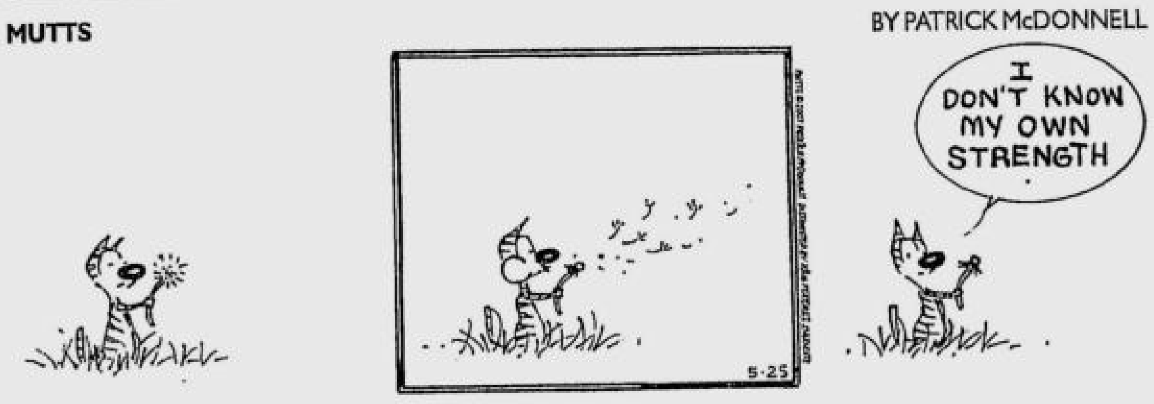
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ASK A MOM
WHERE DO BIRDS GO IN THE WINTER?
THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION. LET'S GO TO THE LIBRARY AND FIND A BOOK ON THAT.
ASK A DAD
WHERE DO BIRDS GO IN THE WINTER?
THAT WAY.

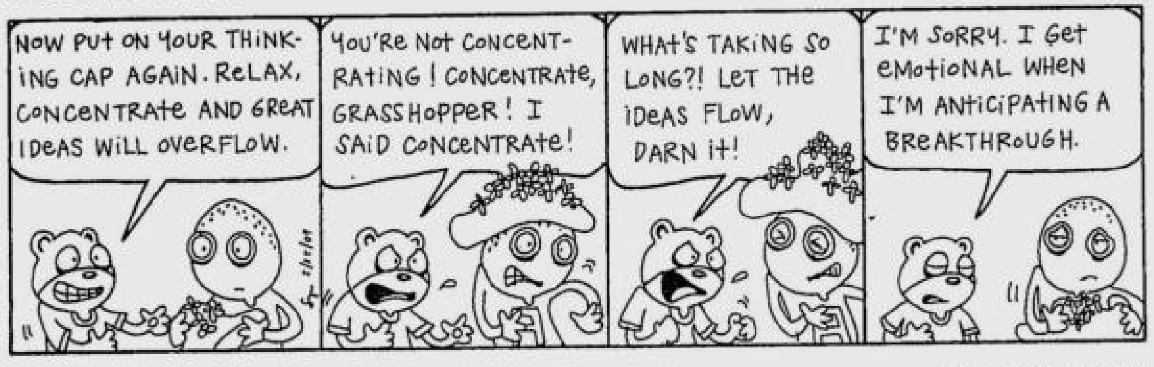
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


5-25
I DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH

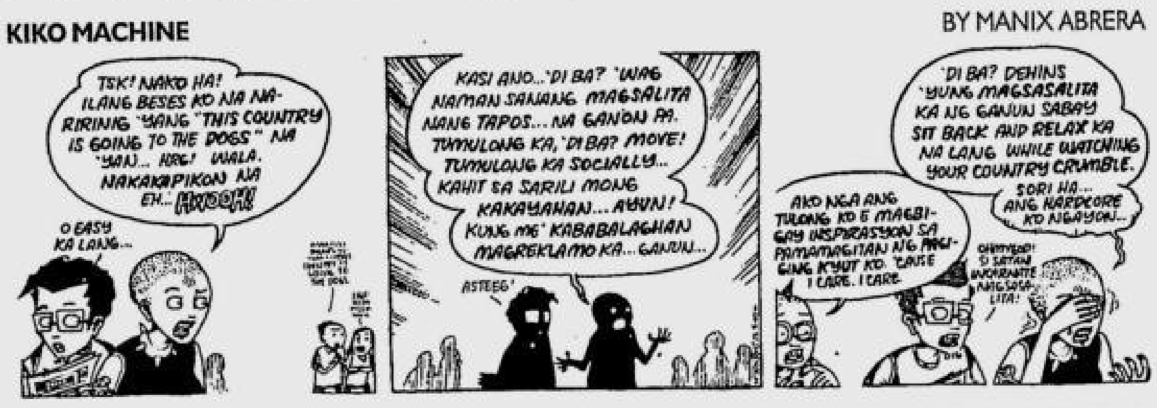
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NOW PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP AGAIN. RELAX, CONCENTRATE AND GREAT IDEAS WILL OVERFLOW.
YOU'RE NOT CONCENTRATING! CONCENTRATE, GRASSHOPPER! I SAID CONCENTRATE!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?! LET THE IDEAS FLOW, DARN IT!
I'M SORRY. I GET EMOTIONAL WHEN I'M ANTICIPATING A BREAKTHROUGH.

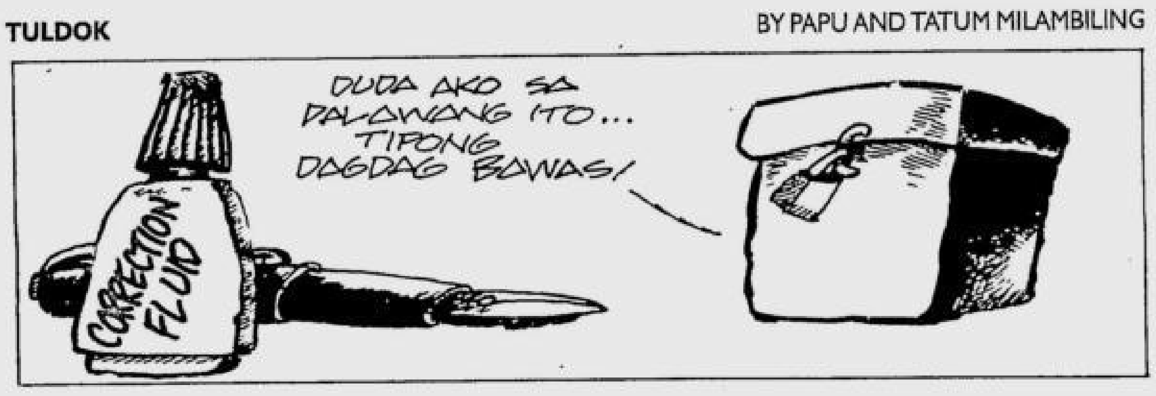
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! NAKO HA! ILANG BESES KO NA NARIRINIG 'YANG "THIS COUNTRY IS GOING TO THE DOGS" NA 'YAN... KRG! WALA. NAKAKAPIKON NA EH... HNOOH!
O EASY KA LANG...
KASI ANO...'DI BA? 'WAG NAMAN SANANG MAGSALITA NANG TAPOS... NA GANON PA. TUMULONG KA, 'DI BA? MOVE! TUMULONG KA SOCIALLY... KAHIT SA SARILI MONG KAKAYAHAN... AYUN! KUNG ME' KABABALAGHAN MAGREKLAMO KA... GANUN...
ASTEEG!
'DI BA? DEHINS 'YUNG MAGSASALITA KA NG GANUN SABAY SIT BACK AND RELAX KA NA LANG WHILE WATCHING YOUR COUNTRY CRUMBLE.
AKO NGA ANG TULONG KO E MAGBIGAY INSPIRASYON SA PAMAMAGITAN NG PAGIGING KYUT KO. 'CAUSE I CARE. I CARE.
SORI HA... ANG HARDCORE KO NGAYON...

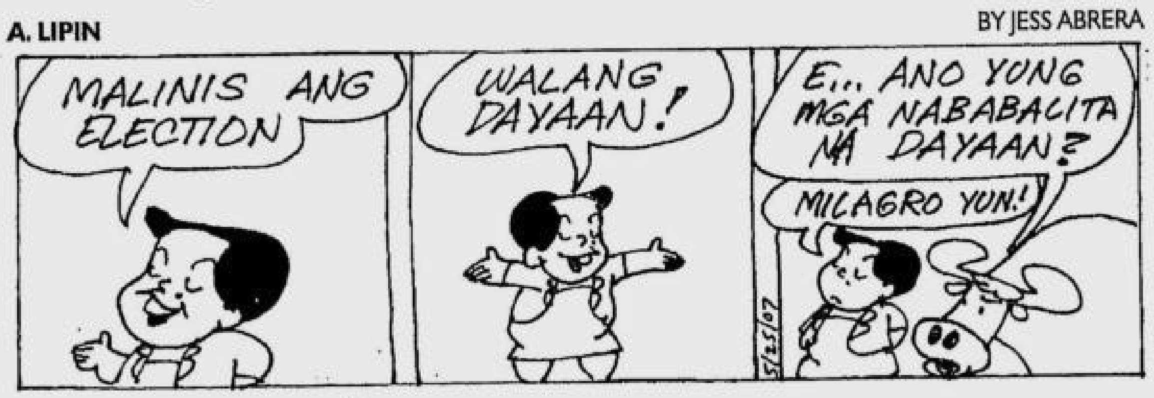
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DUDA AKO SA PALAWANG ITO... TIPONG DAGDAG BAWAS!
CORRECTION FLUID

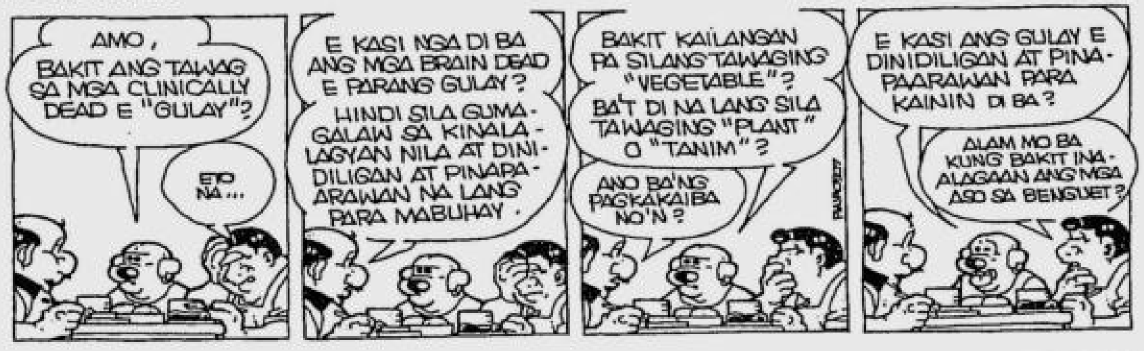
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALINIS ANG ELECTION
WALANG DAYAAN!
E... ANO YUNG MGA NABABALITA NA DAYAAN?
MILAGRO YUN!
5/25/07

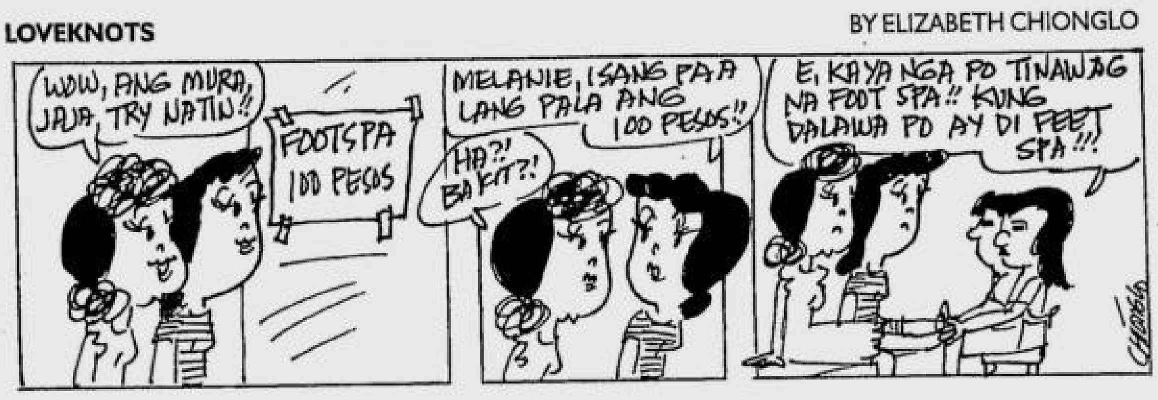
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AMO, BAKIT ANG TAWAG SA MGA CLINICALLY DEAD E "GULAY"?
ETO NA...
E KASI NGA DI BA ANG MGA BRAIN DEAD E PARANG GULAY?
HINDI SILA GUMAGALAW SA KINALALAGYAN NILA AT DINIDILIGAN AT PINAPAARAWAN NA LANG PARA MABUHAY.
BAKIT KAILANGAN PA SILANG TAWAGING "VEGETABLE"?
BA'T DI NA LANG SILA TAWAGING "PLANT" O "TANIM"?
ANO BA'NG PAGKAKAIBA NO'N?
E KASI ANG GULAY E DINIDILIGAN AT PINAPAARAWAN PARA KAININ DI BA?
ALAM MO BA KUNG BAKIT INAALAGAAN ANG MGA ASO SA BENGUET?

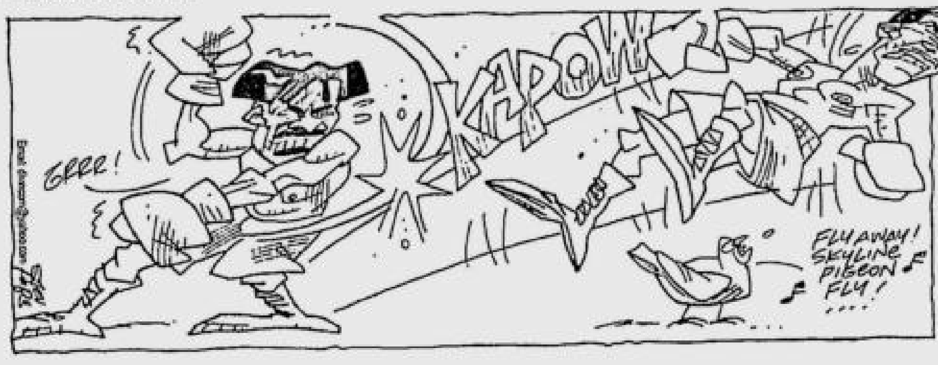
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


WOW, ANG MURA, JAJA, TRY NATIN!!
FOOTSPA 100 PESOS
MELANIE, ISANG PAA LANG PALA ANG 100 PESOS!!
HA?! BAKIT?!
E, KAYA NGA PO TINAWAG NA FOOT SPA!! KUNG DALAWA PO AY DI FEET SPA!!!

DIVINE COMEDY

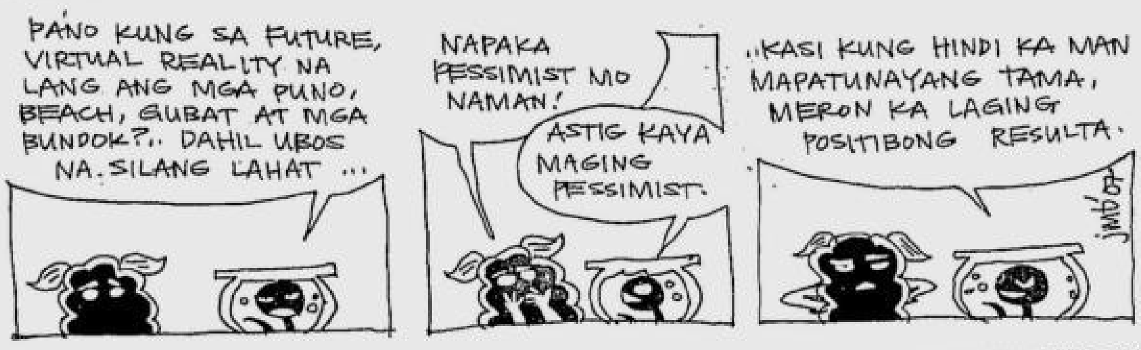
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GRRR!
KAPOW!
FLY AWAY! SKYLINE PIGEON FLY!

NA-KNOCK-OUT NI PACMAN SI MARQUEZ SA ISANG SUNTOK LANG SA FIRST ROUND NG KANILANG REMATCH DAHIL NANGGIGIGIL SIYA SA GALIT KASI NATALO LANG SYA NG ISANG BABAE SA ELEKSYON

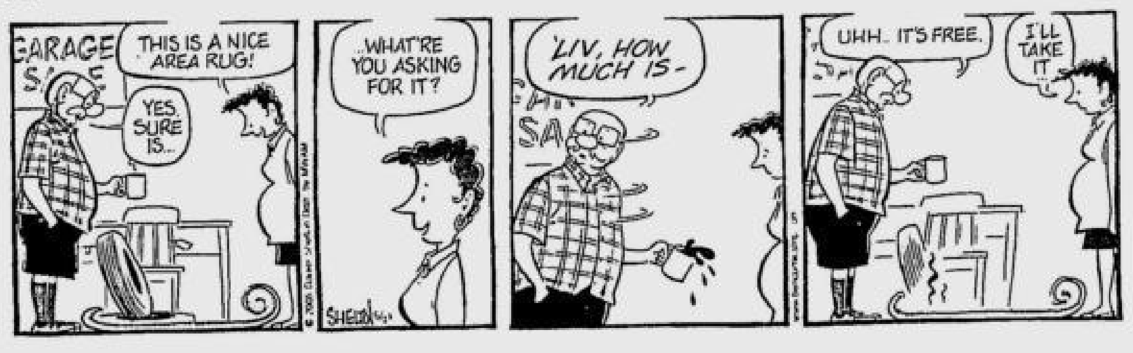
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PANO KUNG SA FUTURE, VIRTUAL REALITY NA LANG ANG MGA PUNO, BEACH, GUBAT AT MGA BUNDOK?.. DAHIL UBOS NA SILANG LAHAT ...
NAPAKA PESSIMIST MO NAMAN!
ASTIG KAYA MAGING PESSIMIST.
..KASI KUNG HINDI KA MAN MAPATUNAYANG TAMA, MERON KA LAGING POSITIBONG RESULTA.
jmt 07

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GARAGE SALE
THIS IS A NICE AREA RUG!
YES. SURE IS...
..WHAT'RE YOU ASKING FOR IT?
'LIV, HOW MUCH IS-
UHH.. IT'S FREE.
I'LL TAKE IT.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Gets under way
7 __-jongg
10 Units of conductance
14 Lyndon's running mate
15 Capital of South Australia
17 Perfect place
18 Bloody state
19 Who...?
21 __ you the clever one!
22 David __ Roth
23 Auditor's letters
26 Answer to 19A
31 Mil. honor
34 PAU's successor
35 Anne who lost her head
36 Similar things
39 Mandible
40 Italian cheese
41 Word for the Beatles
42 Sun. oration
43 Who...?
47 Forerunner of CDs
48 "The Name of the Rose" writer
49 Vietnamese dress
53 Answer to 43A
57 Be well enough for
60 Fix the mosaic
61 More weird
62 Produce provider
63 Soap unit
64 Newspaper honchos, briefly
65 Ancient Hebrew mystic

DOWN

1 Former Dolphins' coach
2 Instruct privately
3 Over
4 Rue
5 Wistful
6 Stick around
7 Century plants
8 Pueblo bricks
9 Wife/sister of Zeus
10 Quite a few
11 Hurry!
12 GI's garb
13 His: Fr.
16 P.E. Trudeau's party
20 Earthenware vessels
23 Singer Laine and others
24 Golfer Stewart
25 "Lou Grant" star Ed
27 Link up with the Internet
28 Addis __, Eth.
29 Pledge
30 Mass vestment
31 Tom's "Splash" co-star
32 Nose around
33 "The Stranger" author
37 Fall behind
38 Lennon's Yoko
39 Esau's brother
41 Agents
44 Sat on eggs
45 Cutting rays
46 State gambling games
50 Clear frost
51 Songwriter Harold
52 Grenoble's department
53 Delight
54 Marching word
55 Mayberry kid
56 Egg on
57 TV watchdog agcy.
58 Period
59 Mouse-spotter's cry

1	2	3	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14						■	15			16				
17						■	18							
19						20						■	■	■
21					■	22			■	■	■	23	24	25
■	■	■	26		27				28	29	30			
31	32	33	■	■	34			■	35					
36			37	38			■	39						
40						■	41			■	■	42		
43						44				45	46	■	■	■
47			■	■	■	48			■	49		50	51	52
■	■	■	53	54	55				56					
57	58	59						■	60					
61								■	62					
63				■	64			■	65					

By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL

5/25/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	S	M	O	■	D	Y	E	■	G	R	U	M	P
O	R	T	O	N	■	E	E	L	■	E	E	R	I	E
D	R	A	T	S	■	A	T	E	■	T	R	E	S	S
■	■	T	H	E	D	R	I	V	E	W	A	Y	T	O
A	P	E	■	T	O	T	■	■	R	I	N	■	■	■
G	O	L	D	■	T	H	O	M	A	S	■	H	O	G
A	S	I	A	N	■	■	L	U	T	E	■	E	R	A
T	H	E	B	A	T	E	S	M	O	T	E	L	I	S
H	E	S	■	R	A	V	E	■	■	O	R	L	O	P
A	R	T	■	C	R	A	N	E	S	■	R	O	L	E
■	■	■	S	I	R	■	■	M	I	G	■	T	E	D
T	H	E	P	S	Y	C	H	O	P	A	T	H	■	■
H	I	V	E	S	■	H	O	T	■	B	E	E	P	S
A	D	I	E	U	■	A	B	E	■	L	A	R	V	A
W	E	L	D	S	■	R	O	D	■	E	R	E	C	T

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5/25/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Essentially, you're an idealist. You will always fight the good fight. You'll especially protect home and family. You're intelligent and quite philosophical. You approach life in very physical terms. Regardless of how passionately you feel about someone or something, you always appear cool, calm and collected. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Mike Myers, actor/comedian; Ian McKellen, actor; Eve Ensler, playwright.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be on the lookout for chances to take courses or increase your education. This sort of thing, plus opportunities to travel, definitely will come your way this year.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good year to go for loans, mortgages or assistance from others of any kind. You might also receive an inheritance or a scholarship.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Partnerships and dealing with the public in general are areas where you are most blessed this year. People love you now! Form working units. Don't be afraid of commitment.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is just a reminder to keep you aware that you definitely can improve your job this year (and your health). If your job doesn't improve, you will get a better one.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Love, romance, vacations, parties, sports, the arts and anything having to do with children are areas of extreme good fortune for you this year. Party your face off!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Most of you are enjoying your home and family situation this year more than you have in decades. Family members are loving and supportive. Plus, you like where you're living!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's easy for you to have a positive attitude now. This is good. Your thoughts are the beginning of everything else in your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You can earn more money this year by boosting your earnings or getting a new job. Be on the lookout for ways to do this, because this is a reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Lucky you! Moneybags Jupiter is back in your sign for the whole year. This hasn't happened for 12 years. Make the most of this. Milk this good fortune for all it's worth.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You are coming out of a time where you had to give up things and let go of some people. You will soon enter a time of preparation for a wonderful career peak in two to three years.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Continue to enjoy your popularity. You like people, and this year they love you. Accept all invitations. Enjoy the company of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can really expand your reputation and your good name in society this year. Bosses and VIPs think highly of you now. Be bold about promoting yourself.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

4								9
		7	1		3			
		1			8	2	3	
	8	6					1	
				5				
	3					4	2	
	6	9	2			3		
			7		9	5		
1								8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/25

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	7	4	8	2	3	9	5	6
2	3	9	7	5	6	8	1	4
6	5	8	9	1	4	3	7	2
3	1	2	5	8	7	4	6	9
4	9	6	1	3	2	7	8	5
7	8	5	4	6	9	2	3	1
9	2	3	6	7	1	5	4	8
5	4	1	3	9	8	6	2	7
8	6	7	2	4	5	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/24

MIND AND BODY, ON TOP OF THE WORLD
A Buddhist monk meditates on a cliff overlooking a village in Nepal. In National Geographic Channel's "Light at the Edge of the World: Science of the Mind" on May 28, 3 p.m., explorer Wade Davis travels to Nepal to discover a Nepali Buddhist indigenous culture preserved through sacred teachings, customs and traditions, such as meditation.

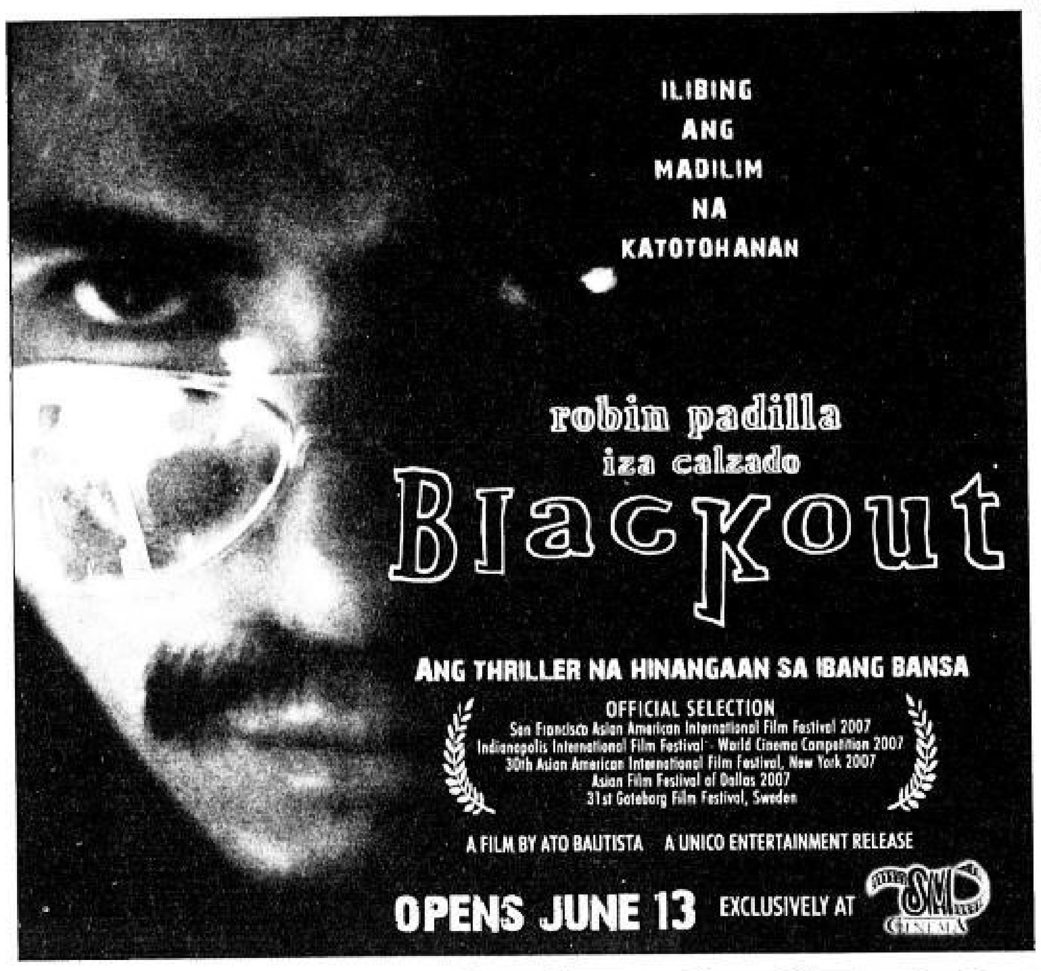
SHOW TIME

Bamboo set to rock Lucena

WINSTON IN CONCERT goes to Lucena City tonight with rock band Bamboo performing at the Central Park Garden Café and Restaurant.

Members of Bamboo, which has released three top-selling albums, are Bamboo Manalac, Ira Cruz, Nathan Azarcon and Vic Mercado.

The event is open to 18-year-olds and above. The organizer may refuse entry to those without valid IDs.


ILIBING ANG MADILIM NA KATOTOHANAN
robin padilla
iza calzado
Blackout
ANG THRILLER NA HINANGAAN SA IBANG BANSA
OFFICIAL SELECTION
San Francisco Asian American International Film Festival 2007
Indianapolis International Film Festival · World Cinema Competition 2007
30th Asian American International Film Festival, New York 2007
Asian Film Festival of Dallas 2007
31st Goteborg Film Festival, Sweden
A FILM BY ATO BAUTISTA A UNICO ENTERTAINMENT RELEASE
OPENS JUNE 13 EXCLUSIVELY AT SM CINEMA

WIN your very own ADVANCED SCREENING of Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer
Ayala Malls Cinemas
FANTASTIC 4 RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
In Ayala Malls Cinemas starting June 13
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW at the cinema ticketbooths of GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & ALABANG TOWN CENTER
And get the chance to win your very own ADVANCE SCREENING of Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer for you & your friends at the posh MyCinema of Greenbelt 3!
Plus! Collectible Fantastic 4 PREMIUM ITEMS!
Pls. see promo banners & leaflets for details. Promo period: May 25 to June 6, 2007.
Raffle Draw Date: June 7, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2338, Series of 2007
glorietta GREENBELT TOWN

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SHREK 3	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 SPIDER-MAN 3	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SHREK 3	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SINEMARS (10:30 am - 12:00 nn) / LUCKY YOU	5 SHREK 3	6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SHREK 3	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END GUARANTEED SEATS	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END		
	3 SHREK 3	4 SHREK 3	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	3 SHREK 3	4 FIREHOUSE DOG
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	2 SHREK 3		
	3 SPIDER-MAN 3	4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit May 15 to 31, 2007	Strawberry Shortcake & Friends: The Big Berry Bake Off May 18 to 20, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Toastmasters Info Booth at Paseos May 18 to 20, 2007	Piyestang Pinoy: Celebrity Recipes Anniversary Party May 16, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 2 Dinner Theatre presents: Broadway Showstoppers
May 15 & 22, 2007

Greenbelt Onstage — ONSTAGE - The perfect spot for concerts, stage plays & coporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2007
For bookings, pls. call 752-7862 or 757-3861

Ayala MUSEUM — CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
Ongoing until May 27, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

AYALA MALLS CINEMAS STARGAZING
Ayala Malls Cinemas
meet & greet the stars of
Paano kita Iibigin
Regine Velasquez & Piolo Pascual
And other surprise guest celebrities!
May 25, 2007 (Friday)
5:00 pm • Market! Market! Activity Center
May 26, 2007 (Saturday)
5:00 PM • Glorietta 4 Park
Reserved seats for the first 200 moviegoers who will present any movie tickets purchased in any Ayala Malls Cinemas on the day of the events
Star Cinema ABS-CBN VIVA glorietta

Strawberry Shortcake and Friends
The Big Berry Bake Off
at the Ayala Malls
Strawberry Shortcake
Ayala Malls
Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
May 18-20
11am , 3pm & 6pm
TriNoma
Activity Center
May 25-27
11am , 3pm & 6pm
Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage (Cinema 1)
June 1-3
1pm , 4pm & 6:30pm
glorietta TOWN AYALA CENTER TriNoma
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

THE subject of the pop and flash of cameras: Angelina Jolie, Dan Futterman, Mariane Pearl and Brad Pitt.

PHOTO BY RUBEN AND JANET NEPALES

Brad-Angelina fever hits Cannes

From page H1

nalists and photographers present was twice the usual.

Access Hollywood's Billy Bush, in flip-flops, showed up to ask Angelina a question which he first rehearsed several times. The photographers and some international journalists went into a frenzy when Angelina, Brad, director Michael Winterbottom and key cast members arrived. Lensmen stood on chairs during the photo session.

In perhaps their first press conference together, the hot couple was, by prior arrangement, not seated together. In the glow of the spotlight, Angelina—brown-haired these days—with those full lips and sultry eyes, looked like a French screen goddess. Well, her late mother *was* French. Brad looked boyish as usual, younger than his 43 years.

In this setting, someone could have set himself on fire and gotten but a few seconds of attention.

But Mariane Pearl, whom Angelina portrays, was a riveting presence in her own way. Gracious and radiant, frizzy-haired Mariane, also a journalist, is of French, Cuban, Dutch and Chinese heritage. She's dark, Angelina is fair. But Angelina, sporting curls in the movie, captured Mariane's essence.

Mariane, pregnant with son Adam at the time her husband was abducted and killed, wrote the book, "A Mighty Heart," upon which the movie was based. She has forgiven the terrorists responsible for Daniel's murder. They were in Karachi, Pakistan researching about shoe bomber Richard Reid when Daniel was kidnapped.

"She does not foster hate," Angelina said of Mariane. "She seeks dialogue. That's a lesson for all of us." The actress was pregnant with her and Brad's child Shiloh Nouvel during the filming—virtually in the same stage of pregnancy that Marianne was in during Daniel's abduction. Brad praised Mariane for being a pillar of strength instead of wallowing as a victim. He bought the film rights to the book and hired director Michael Winterbottom.

Memorable moment

A memorable moment occurred when a TV reporter revealed it was he who had inquired on CNN in 2002 if Mariane had seen the grisly videotape of her husband being killed. He sought Mariane's forgiveness for asking the "inappropriate" question. "I accept your apology," Mariane said, smiling.

As expected, Hollywood's hottest couple was asked about the more-than-usual media frenzy their presence had caused in Cannes. Brad replied that it didn't feel different from their life every day. Angelina chose to revel in the "beautiful day" she spent with their four kids on the day after they arrived here.

Toward the end of the press con, Brad couldn't answer a reporter's question and happily admitted to being distracted: "I was wafting in the words of what's-her-name." He was referring to Angelina, of course.

When the session ended, some international journalists acted like regular fans crowding the Croisette and asked for the couple's autographs. Outside, photographers who could not get in were given equal importance by Angelina. She also posed for pictures and signed autographs for festival goers who had wormed their way into the photographers' line. On our way out, we bumped into Fil-Am David Magdael, one of the organizers of the annual VC Film Festival, the largest showcase of Asian and Asian-American works in Southern California. David is a Cannes virgin like Janet and myself.

In the evening, we watched "A Mighty Heart" during the gala screening graced by Brad and Angelina. Adam Pearl, almost 5 now, was as curly-haired as the woman he escorted, his mom Mariane.

After the last of the closing credits rolled and the lights went back on, a packed audience gave a standing ovation to Angelina, Brad, Mariane, Michael and the key talents of the film. Angelina might have had a very strong shot at being Cannes Best Actress but since the film is entered out of competition, she is not eligible. Brad is scheduled to step more into the limelight as his other Cannes movie, "Ocean's 13," is shown this week.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

FEEDBACK

E-MAIL from fans "investigating" the Bektas-Gutierrez breakup:

"Mariaclara" says: Go to peoplefinder.com, type DALOIA under last name and R under first name, hit search and you will find Daloia, Richard P, 54, with Ruffa's name (Sharmaine) under possible relatives.

***

From "Mary Lee" (12:31 p.m., May 22, 2007): I went to peoplefinder.com and also searched the other way: Sharmaine Gutierrez.. Wow! There really is a connection to this Richard Daloia, and even to Anabelle Rama and Eddie Gutierrez. Coincidence? Ruffa is probably in LA now looking for this Richard ... for damage control! It's so obvious.

Jealousy, not love, is blind
DIANA ZUBIRI
POLO RAVALES
and FRANCINE PRIETO
silip
a JOEL C. LAMANGAN film
a SEIKO Films presentation
OPENS JUNE 6

SHANG CINEPLEX

① PIRATES OF THE CARIBBBEAN 3 (GP)
12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

② PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP)
1:35, 4:55, 8:15

③ SHREK 3 (GP)
11:30, 1:30, 3:30
5:30, 7:30, 9:30

④ PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP)
12:30, 3:50

PREMIERE THEATRE PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3 (GP) 11:30, 2:50, 6:10, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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CINEMA 1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
10:30, 2:00, 5:30
9:00 GP

CINEMA 2 SHREK 03
10:35, 12:40, 2:45
4:50, 6:55, 9:00 GP

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
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CINEMA 3 SHREK 03 // PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11:35, 1:40, 3:45
5:50, 7:55, 10:00
// 11:45 GP

CINEMA 4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11:25, 2:55, 6:25
10:00 GP

CINEMA 5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
12:15, 3:45, 7:15
10:45 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

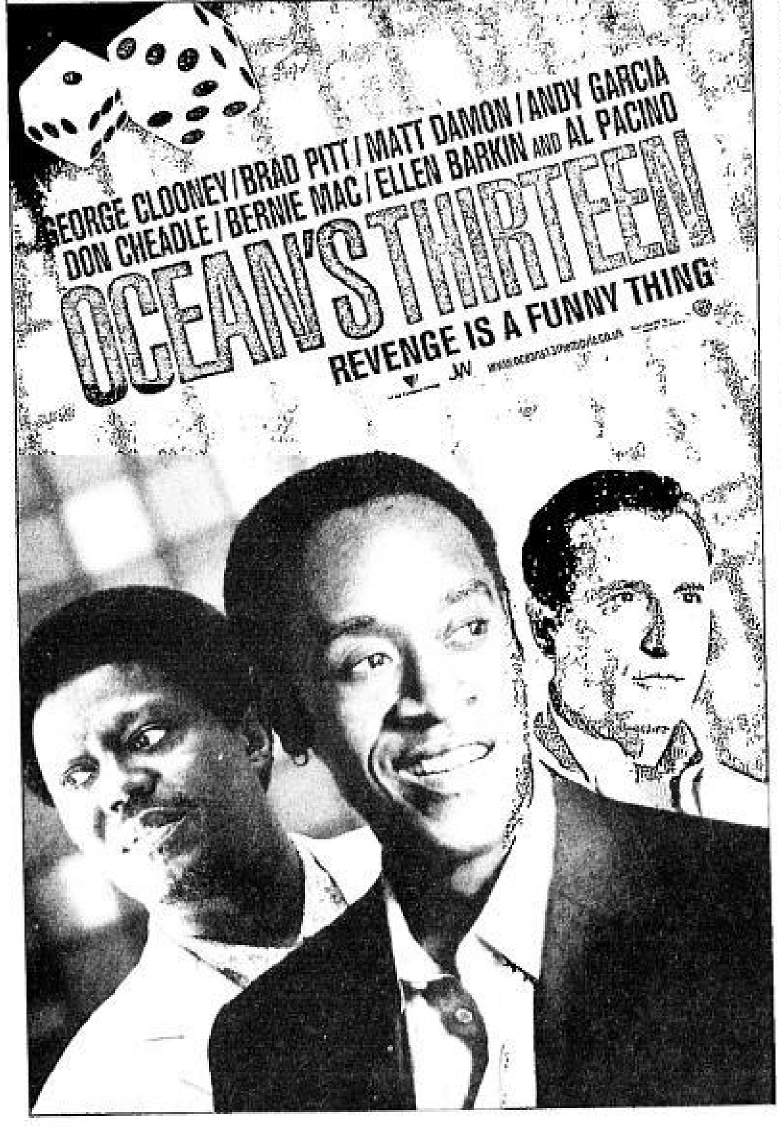
May 26, 2007	OGIE ALCASID & SITTI	8:00 PM
June 15 & 16, 2007	Rico J. Puno & Mitch Valdez	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

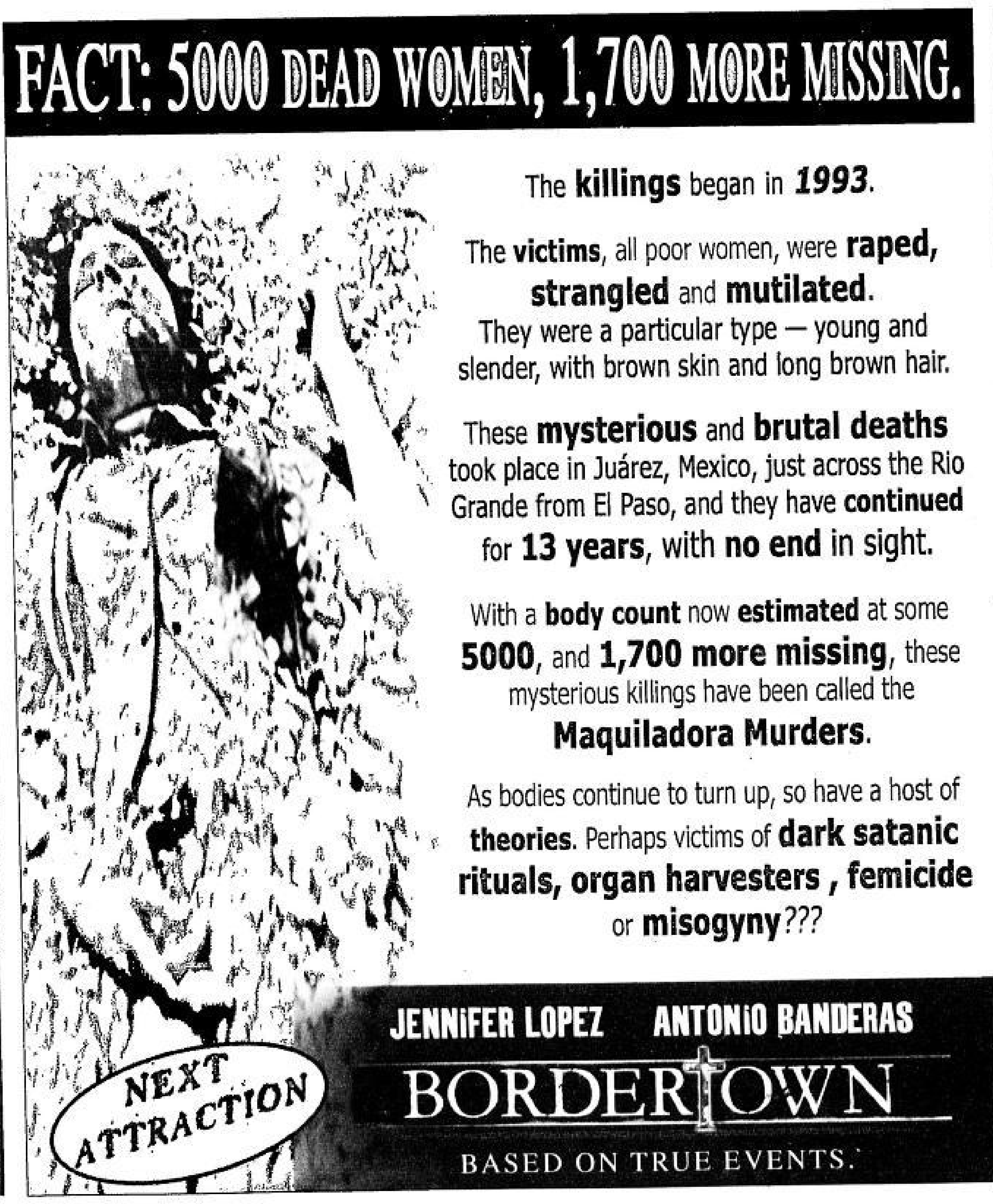
EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
May 31, 2007	RJ Jimenez	8:30 PM
May 25, 2007	Drag - Ons	9:00 PM
June 15, 2007	Champion of the World (Jed Madela)	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

OPENS JUNE 6!
MTRCB RATING: PG-13 Children below 13 years old should be accompanied by a parent or adult.



GEORGE CLOONEY / BRAD PITT / MATT DAMON / ANDY GARCIA
DON CHEADLE / BERNIE MAC / ELLEN BARKIN AND AL PACINO
OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
REVENGE IS A FUNNY THING


FACT: 5000 DEAD WOMEN, 1,700 MORE MISSING.

The **killings** began in ***1993***.

The **victims**, all poor women, were **raped, strangled** and **mutilated**.
They were a particular type — young and slender, with brown skin and long brown hair.

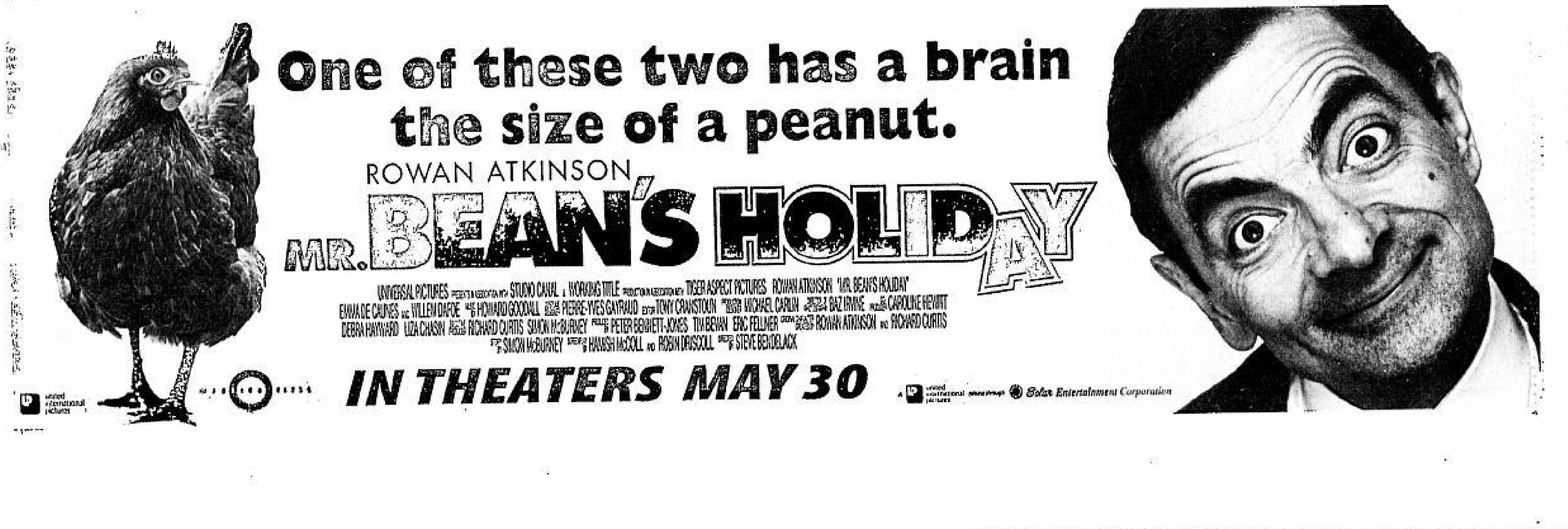
These **mysterious** and **brutal deaths** took place in Juárez, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from El Paso, and they have **continued** for **13 years**, with **no end** in sight.

With a **body count** now **estimated** at some **5000**, and **1,700 more missing**, these mysterious killings have been called the **Maquiladora Murders**.

As bodies continue to turn up, so have a host of **theories**. Perhaps victims of **dark satanic rituals, organ harvesters, femicide** or **misogyny**???

NEXT ATTRACTION

JENNIFER LOPEZ ANTONIO BANDERAS
BORDERTOWN
BASED ON TRUE EVENTS.


One of these two has a brain the size of a peanut.

ROWAN ATKINSON
MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

UNIVERSAL PICTURES STUDIO CANAL WORKING TITLE TIGER ASPECT PICTURES ROWAN ATKINSON "MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY"
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DEBRA HAYWARD LIZA CHASIN RICHARD CURTIS SIMON McBURNEY PETER BENNETT-JONES TIM BEVAN ERIC FELLNER ROWAN ATKINSON RICHARD CURTIS
SIMON McBURNEY HAMISH McCOLL ROBIN DRISCOLL STEVE BENDELACK

IN THEATERS MAY 30

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